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REVIEW OF THE BIRDING YEAR 2023

- Avian influenza has a serious impact on colonies of Gannet, Black-headed Gull, Common, Arctic and Sandwich Tern, but Little Terns avoid the virus and a Welsh site becomes the largest colony in Britain & Ireland.

- Surveys show a worrying decline in Black Grouse numbers, stable breeding populations of Hen Harrier and Woodcock, and a marked decrease in the average size of Rook colonies.

- Six species occur in Wales for the first time, including Black-winged Kite and Canada Warbler not previously recorded in Britain.

- The number of birds ringed in Wales this century passes 1.3 million.

The Wetland Bird Survey reached a record high for **Brent Goose**, thanks mainly to continued increases in the Pale-bellied race (*hrota*), most notably at the mouth of the Dee estuary. The Dee is also the principal site for **Pink-footed Goose** in Wales, with a record 15,000 in March 2023 and larger flocks than usual along the Denbighshire coast.

Indices of **Canada Goose**, both the breeding and wintering populations, reached record highs, with the largest ever counts at several sites, including the Dee and Ogmore estuaries. The **Greylag Goose** population also reached a record high, although is more localised and still relatively scarce in some counties, especially inland. By contrast, the size of the naturalised **Barnacle Goose** population has fallen in recent years, with lower numbers on both the Dyfi and Teifi estuaries.

Numbers of wintering **Pintail** have almost doubled since 2019/20, making up the deficit of the previous decade, and county record flocks occurred in Pembrokeshire in January and Breconshire in March. **Teal** also saw its WeBS index come close to a record high, with the largest count ever in Breconshire. By contrast, records of **Goldeneye** and **Pochard** remained low at all but a handful of sites. The **Little Grebe** index reached a record high, whereas counts of **Great Crested Grebes** fell to their lowest levels for 25 years, fewer **Slavonian Grebe** are overwintering and there were no records of **Red-necked Grebe** in Wales for the third consecutive year.

Change in indices of species monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey in the long- and short-term (excluding gulls and terns)

1996/97-2022/23 change (36 species and two forms of Brent Goose)

2021/22-2022/23 change (50 species and two forms of Brent Goose)

	Decline >50%		No change		Increase <25%
	Decline >25% and ≤50%				Increase >25% and ≤50%
	Decline <25%				Increase >50%

Passage and wintering numbers of many wader species have declined in recent years, especially **Knot** and **Dunlin**, but bucking that trend is **Greenshank,** for which 11 sites in Wales are now of GB importance. **Cattle Egret** numbers were double their previous high point and recorded in every county for the first time, with

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Montgomeryshire hosting Wales' largest ever flock of 32. **Glossy Ibis** were seen at fewer sites than in the previous couple of years but 17 over Skomer on 13 May was the largest flock ever recorded in Wales. It was a record year for **Spoonbill** numbers too, with a flock of 17 at Penclacwydd in November breaking a Welsh record that had stood since May 1893! The same site now also holds the title for the largest roost of **Little Egret** in Wales, with 233 there on 12 September.

The first passage **Ring Ouzel** was in Ceredigion on 11 February, the earliest ever Welsh record at a site where the species had not overwintered. Ceredigion and Radnorshire also recorded February **Wheatears**, a species that occurred in large numbers at some sites in mid-April, including 220 in paddocks at Strumble Head on 18th and 164 on Bardsey on 20th. An unprecedented 11 **Alpine Swifts** were accepted by the WBRC, almost doubling the number of records this century, with reports of several others that were not submitted. Most arrived over a few days in the second half of March.

Numbers of **Whimbrel** migrating through Wales have fallen considerably, perhaps reflecting declines in the breeding population in parts of Iceland, although there were some high counts on the Severn estuary and Burry Inlet where northerly winds impeded onward passage. These conditions also resulted in unusually large counts of **Bar-tailed Godwit** in South Wales in mid-April, with several birds at inland sites too. Notable too is the trend for **Black-tailed Godwit**, presumed to be immature birds, over-summering in Wales, with June counts of up to 700 in North Wales and over 500 in the south. Larger numbers of **Wood Sandpiper** than usual in spring contributed to the largest annual total on record. Late April saw an arrival of **Black-winged Stilts**, including several records of apparent pairs, but none stayed more than a couple of days. It was an above average year for **Quail**, but there were only three records of **Rose-coloured Starling** in the first year that it ceased to be considered by the WBRC.

Bird flu

Following the catastrophic impact of the H5N1 strain of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) on breeding birds across the UK in 2022, most visibly on Gannets and several tern species (see *Welsh Bird Report 2022*), managers of seabird colonies entered the 2023 season with trepidation, wondering how many birds would return from their wintering areas and whether Welsh colonies would be affected to an extent that most had avoided in 2022.

The table of confirmed cases illustrates that seabirds was the group that were hit most badly this year, with no waterbirds and few raptors testing positive. However, this may reflect the focus of surveillance on the coast and the relatively low chance of finding dead passerines, especially species that are not colonial or that roost collectively. Once an individual of a species has tested positive at a location, no further tests are carried out in that season, so the table below in no way reflects the scale of the outbreak.

Numbers of birds testing positive for HPAI in Wales (Animal and Plant Health Agency, downloaded 10 August 2024).

	2022	2023			2022	2023
Greylag Goose	7			Unspecified gull		1
Canada Goose	5			Sandwich Tern		2
Goose sp.	4			Common Tern		4
Mute Swan	20			Arctic Tern		1
Swan sp.	1			Guillemot	1	41
Mallard	4			Gannet	9	2
Pheasant	9			Hen Harrier	4	
Pigeon sp.	1			Buzzard	5	3
Moorhen	1			Bird of prey sp.	1	
Curlew	1			Sparrowhawk	1	
Kittiwake	1	1		Goshawk	1	
Black-headed Gull	2	20		Peregrine	1	
Common Gull		2		Carrion Crow	2	
Herring Gull	10	7		Unspecified crow		1
Great Black-backed Gull		2		Unspecified bird		1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	3		Total	93	91

The impacts were felt most on Grassholm, Pembrokeshire, where the Gannet population was 52% lower than in 2022 as a result of mortality in the previous breeding season and quite possibly continued deaths through the intervening winter. The mixed gull and tern colonies in North Wales also saw significant die-offs, particularly at Shotton in Flintshire, and Cemlyn and The Skerries on Anglesey, leading to the withdrawal of summer wardens from the latter site.

Little Terns, which nest with more space from their neighbours than other terns, and burrow-nesting Manx Shearwaters and Puffins seemed to avoid the virus, but Guillemots also took a hit, which was not apparent until the end of the season when birds started to leave their nesting cliffs. Large numbers were washed up on beaches in the southwest and northwest in late summer. Post mortem analyses of Guillemots found dead around the North Sea indicated that many were underweight and that food shortage was a factor, but while some Welsh auks tested positive for HPAI, the majority of carcasses were collected and disposed of by local authorities without analysis. The full impact of HPAI will not be known for some years, but a review by the RSPB (Tremlett *et al.* 2024) showed that the short-term population impacts were serious for several species.

Bad weather in March led to a late start for many seabirds, and resulted in synchronous breeding at **Cormorant** colonies in Pembrokeshire. Fears about the impact of HPAI (bird flu) were realised at a number of seabird colonies (see box), particularly for **Black-headed Gull**, **Arctic, Common** and **Sandwich Tern**, and **Gannet** on Grassholm and the establishing colony on Anglesey. The breeding attempt by the only pair of **Roseate Tern** in Wales also failed during the outbreak. Mercifully, **Little Terns** at Gronant appear to have avoided the virus and the colony was the largest in Britain & Ireland in 2023, and a new colony of **Sandwich Terns** on Anglesey managed to fledge some young. **Puffins** also appear to have avoided HPAI, with a 10% increase in occupied burrows compared to the previous year, and **Black Guillemot** numbers continued to increase, justifying their move from Amber to Green List on Birds of Conservation Concern Wales. The effects of HPAI at higher latitudes were evident in numbers of **Arctic Skua** and **Great Skua** recorded on passage, with the latter down by 88%. Declines at most **Kittiwake** colonies continued a trend of recent years and may relate to food supply, and either this or HPAI may have been responsible for a mass die-off of **Guillemots** in late summer.

Among scarcer breeding species, **Black Grouse** showed a 45% reduction in numbers at sites surveyed since the last full count in 2018, suggestive of several poor breeding seasons, and further contraction in range away from the west. **Bearded Tit** and **Avocet** also had poor breeding seasons, with lower numbers and poor breeding success, although the latter species made breeding attempts on Anglesey and the north Flintshire coast for the first time. There were more records than in recent years of **Golden Plover** in potential breeding habitat, including several at peatland sites undergoing restoration. There were also more breeding records of **Lapwing** than usual, with good breeding success at several sites within mammal-exclusion fences, including the highest ever at RSPB Cors Ddyga. A national survey of **Woodcock** found, surprisingly, more roding males than in 2013 at a similar number of sites. Sightings in Eryri suggest that **Twite** hangs on to its status as a Welsh breeding species by only its toenails, and the same is probably true of **Corn Bunting** in Denbighshire. There were three confirmed breeding pairs of **Long-eared Owl**, including the first in Eastern Glamorgan since 1918.

It was a good year for breeding **Shoveler** with 13 broods noted, and higher numbers of **Teal** in the breeding season than are usually recorded, although both species may go under the radar. By contrast, the number of breeding **Pochard** detected was lower than usual, records of breeding **Red-breasted Merganser** have almost completely dried up and Coots remain scarce in western counties on the mainland.

It was another record year for breeding **Osprey**, with eggs laid in 11 nests and pairs summering at several other sites. A national survey of **Hen Harrier** found 40 territorial pairs, and there was good productivity at those nests monitored, but numbers of **Buzzard** and **Raven** were at their lowest since the 1990s and a decline in breeding **Peregrine** shows no signs of reversal. A concerted effort to record evidence of breeding **Merlin** found 15 breeding attempts, with a further nine possibly occupied territories. **Chough** had a good breeding season, with a record number of territories and productivity in Pembrokeshire, above average in North and Mid Wales, and two territories occupied in Carmarthenshire for the first time in many years. The second year of a national survey of rookeries concluded with a new population estimate of 44,127 nests but a marked reduction in the number of large colonies.

Increases in breeding populations were recorded for **Stock Dove, Firecrest, Song Thrush, Blackbird** and **House Sparrow**, and there were signs that the rapid decrease in the **Greenfinch** population may have bottomed-out for now. There were, however, further falls in Breeding Bird Survey indices for **Swift, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Wheatear, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch** and **Yellowhammer**, among others. Of the many species that occur too sparsely to be monitored by the BBS, anecdotal evidence suggests **Marsh Tit** and **Willow Tit** are absent from most areas and it was the second consecutive year with no proven records of breeding **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** in Wales. A rapid assessment of eight sites in Mid and West Wales suggested that **Wood Warbler** numbers could be 50% lower than in 2009-11.

Change in indices of species monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey in the long- and short-term

1995-2022 change (59 species)

2022-23 change (60 species)

Decline >50%	No change	Increase <25%
Decline >25% and ≤50%		Increase >25% and ≤50%
Decline <25%		Increase >50%

The BBS index for **Curlew** fell further, and while a number of recovery projects resulted in more accurate monitoring in some areas (at least 286 territories were reported), understanding of the state of the breeding population more widely remains patchy and breeding success where monitored was poor. The WeBS index for non-breeding **Curlew** has been lower only once in the last 49 years, and there were very few counts of more than 500 birds. For the first time, the *Report* includes counts from important inland sites used by gatherings of pre-breeding birds.

A **Nightingale** in song in Cardiff for 10 days in late May was not far from the last proven breeding record in Wales, in 1981, but there was no evidence that this was repeated. More positively, records of **Western Yellow Wagtail** along the English border with Flintshire and Breconshire were higher than in recent years. There was an increase in records of **Ring-necked Parakeet** from eight of Wales' 14 recording areas, with evidence but no proof of breeding. Bardsey Bird Observatory ringed two of the rarest vagrants of the spring: a **Song Sparrow** in May and a **White-throated Sparrow** in June.

30 years of Breeding Bird Surveys – and a call for more volunteers

2023 saw the completion of the 30th year of data collection by volunteers for the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey. This has been transformational in producing Wales-specific trends for 60 breeding species, mostly passerines, for the first time. Nearly 800 volunteers have contributed over half a million records in Wales since 1994. Those records have required nearly 14,000 visits to the allocated 1-km squares, amounting to some 22,000 hours of recording time. In its first year, 122 squares were covered, with the first record probably being a Chiffchaff on the Pembrokeshire coast on 7 April 1994 at around 06.30 by Peter Tithecott.

The species most frequently recorded is Carrion Crow (approx. 77,800 individual records), followed by Blackbird (74,125) and Jackdaw (74,050). Thirteen species have been seen on just one occasion in Wales, including Woodchat Shrike and Marsh Warbler (both in Pembrokeshire in 1997), Garganey (Anglesey in 2021), Red-backed Shrike (Anglesey in 2023) and Spotted Crake (Anglesey in 2006), the only one to have been recorded in the UK on a BBS survey.

Coverage grew to over 200 squares by 1999 and reached a peak of 343 in 2015. A total 610 squares have been covered at some point in the last 30 years, but numbers have fallen to 300 squares in 2023. Parts of some vice-counties, such as Radnorshire, are now rarely covered and are in need of BBS volunteers. You do not need to be an expert to take part, but you need to be able to identify the common birds you are likely to encounter on a BBS square near you, by sight and sound. Upland squares typically contain smaller numbers of birds, of fewer species, and are a high priority for increased volunteer coverage. Most WOS members are capable of undertaking a BBS survey, and are urged to volunteer their time in order that we can continue to track the fortunes of our breeding birds. **bto.org/our-science/projects/breeding-bird-survey/taking-part**

2023 saw the highest number of records submitted to the BTO Nest Record Scheme in recent years: 6086 records of 91 species. Nest monitoring suggested that **Blue Tit** and **Great Tit** had reasonably productive years, although there was marked variation between sites. That was even more true for **Pied Flycatchers**, with higher productivity than 2022 in South Wales but a poorer season in the north. Several long-term **Dipper** ringing projects reported that first attempts were later than usual, perhaps because of persistent high water in March, and there were relatively fewer second attempts, perhaps due to low water levels in May.

A large movement of **Black Terns** on 18-20 August produced records in almost every Welsh recording area, and a total that was quite possibly the highest ever recorded. It was one of the best years for **Hoopoe** and **Wryneck**, with a record six of the latter on Skomer on 9 September. Despite a **Yellow-browed Warbler** being recorded on Anglesey on the early date of 13 September, it was a relatively poor autumn for numbers. Elevated sea-surface temperatures were recorded across many parts of the Atlantic in the summer and were most likely responsible for record numbers of **Cory's Shearwater** and above-average counts of **Great Shearwater**, but numbers of **Sooty** and **Balearic Shearwater** were poor, likely reflecting the reduced size of their breeding populations.

Redwing saw both a very late spring record (30 May) and a very early autumn record (7 August), both in northwest Wales, while a roost of 16,500 winter thrushes in Breconshire in November was predominantly **Fieldfares**.

The number of birds ringed in Wales since 2000 passed 1.3 million by the year end, with more than a million ringed or reported again since 2013. Among the highlights reported in this year's report (page 249) is an **Aquatic Warbler** ringed in Gwent in 2022 that was re-caught by a ringer on its Polish breeding grounds, the first such recapture. Other notable ringing recoveries included a **Cetti's Warbler** moving from Gwent to Oxfordshire and a **Goldfinch** ringed in Denmark in 2008 that was re-caught by a ringer in Denbighshire. Colour-ringing proved a longevity record (again) for a **Chough** on Anglesey at over 25 years old, while a **Little Tern** in Flintshire also passed its quarter century, a **Red Kite** in Breconshire completed its 27th year and a **Black-headed Gull** in Eastern Glamorgan reached its 30th. Colour-ring resightings also included a **Ringed Plover** in Pembrokeshire the day after being ringed in Caernarfonshire, a **Dunlin** in northern Spain two days after being ringed in Ceredigion, and a Finnish-hatched **Whimbrel** seen in Caernarfonshire, only the second movement between the two countries.

Several species were added to the Welsh List in 2023 (listed in italics below), starting with a ***Baikal Teal*** in Breconshire in January; another record from Caernarfonshire in Feb./March is being considered by the BBRC. A ***Black-winged Kite*** in Montgomeryshire in April was the first ever to be accepted as wild in Britain. The other additions came in an intense 10-day period in late September, when ex-Hurricane Lee deposited an unprecedented number of Nearctic vagrants into Britain & Ireland, around 99 individuals of 27 species, with others across the Atlantic seaboard of Europe from Iceland to the Canaries. In one week, 1 in 6 of the North American songbirds ever recorded in Wales arrived. Pembrokeshire kicked off with Wales' first ***Alder Flycatcher*** on Skokholm and first ***Magnolia Warbler*** on St Govan's Head. The following day, Wales' fourth **Bobolink** was found on Skokholm, first ***Bay-breasted Warbler*** on Ramsey and a **Red-eyed Vireo** near Porthcawl. Bardsey joined the party by ringing three **Black-and-white Warblers**, the first ever ringed in Europe. The focus switched back to the southern half of Wales with Britain's first ***Canada Warbler*** at Flimston, Pembrokeshire, and incredibly, a second **Magnolia Warbler**, this time at Briton Ferry near Port Talbot. A **Great-tailed Grackle** in Pembrokeshire in October was presumed to have been ship-assisted.

There were fewer large autumn counts of **Woodpigeon** than in recent years, but a large movement on 11 November included more than 54,000 over one Gwent village. It was a good autumn for records of **Grey Phalarope** and **Ruff**, but the season (and indeed the year) brought no **Little Auk**, a species that will require a rarity description to the WBRC from 2024. A record number of **Marsh Harriers** overwintered, but both

Curlew: Jamie Smart

winter periods were poor for **Brambling**. Numbers of **Lapland Bunting** and **Snow Bunting** were also low, although several of the latter at inland mountain sites illustrate the possibility of others being undetected. The last five weeks of the year saw the largest numbers of **Waxwing** in Wales since winter 2016/17, most concentrated in the northeast quarter, many providing a colourful start to 2024.

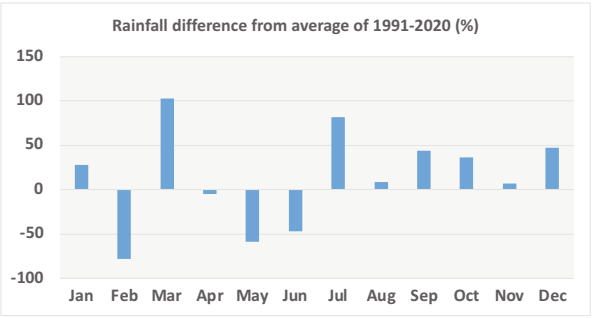
CLIMATE AND WEATHER SUMMARY FOR WALES IN 2023

This summary is based on *State of the Climate 2023 (*Kendon *et al*. 2024) and, for river flows, the National Hydrological Monitoring Programme at **nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk**.

Globally, the monthly average temperature in June 2023 was the highest on record for that month, and each subsequent month (to at least August 2024) has been the warmest on record. For the last four months of 2023, it was 1.5°C higher than the pre-industrial era (NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies), so it is no surprise that 2023 was the warmest year on record in Wales, in a series from 1884. The annual mean temperature in Wales was 1.8°C higher than the 1961-90 average. July was the only month in which the mean temperature was below the monthly average for 1991-2020, while June and September were the warmest ever in Wales.

Significantly, from April 2023 the sea surface temperature in the northeast Atlantic was higher than any year since recording started in 1979, and in June was +1.3°C higher than the 1990-2020 average, described as “off the charts” by scientists (EU Copernicus programme 2023). This was caused by a reduction in wind speeds and currents, with unknown consequences for seabirds.

Once again, there was barely any prolonged snowfall in either winter period except on the high tops of Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog. Although there were cold spells during January, March and late November, such runs are becoming scarcer: there were 64 days where a ground frost was recorded somewhere in Wales in 2023, compared to an average 110 days in 1961-90. Wales has effectively recorded a month fewer days of ground frost per year during 2014-23 compared with 1961-90. This is reflected in the number of growing days (>5.5°C), which in 2023 was one-third higher than in 1961-90. The year ended with a very mild December, more than 2°C above the average, with the mercury hitting 16.1°C at Rhyl, Flintshire, on 23rd.



It was a wet start to the year, with more than 100mm of rain falling at Maerdy, E.Glamorgan, in 24 hours on 12th, making it the wettest place in the UK that month. By contrast, February, with just 27mm of precipitation, would prove to be the driest month of the year. River flows across Wales were exceptionally low for the time of year, all at 22-35% of the February mean in 1991-2020. These conditions didn’t last, with a very wet March, and high river flows throughout the country, many at 60-90% above the average, which remained high through April in South Wales. This had consequences for breeding Dippers that were unable to build nests above the usual flow level.

Strong winds and rain in April, including Storm Noa on 11-12th, may have hit early-nesting species especially on exposed coasts, including Raven, Peregrine, Chough and Grey Heron. There followed a drier than usual

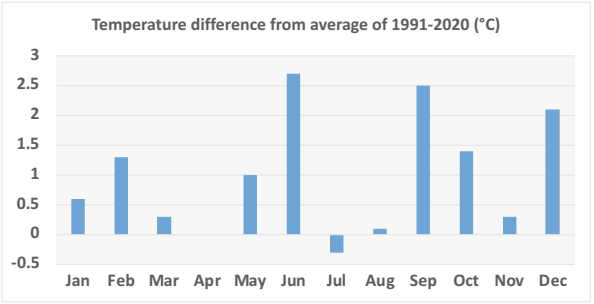
May and June, benefiting other riparian species such as Sand Martin but no doubt contributing to a paucity of second broods by Dippers and low soil moisture levels in some parts of Wales would have been bad news for waders. Most Welsh rivers ran at around 70% of typical flow, but the R.Conwy was already 73% below norm in May and the R.Tywi was a record 81% below average in June.

The temperature contrast in May was illustrated by the coldest grass minimum of -6°C at Llangunllo, Radnorshire, on 16th and a maximum of 25.1°C at Porthmadog, Caernarfonshire, on 30th. A number of grass and scrub fires were started in the dry conditions of early summer, doubtless leading to the loss of nesting attempts by birds such as Skylark, Meadow Pipit and Stonechat.

Extremes of temperature in the UK have been affected by the changing climate to a greater extent than average temperature. The number of 'hot' days (28°C or higher) has more than doubled and 'very hot' days (30°C) has more than trebled for the most recent decade (2014-23) compared to 1961-90. The annual mean temperature and the warm months of June and the September were made more likely by climate change. The daily minimum temperature of 20°C at Prestatyn, Flintshire, on 25 June was the highest ever recorded in June, exceeding 1976. The warm, dry spring benefited insectivorous species, such as tits, warblers and flycatchers, and may have been responsible for the first record of the dragonfly Norfolk Hawker *Aeshna isosceles* in Wales (at Llangorse Lake, Breconshire, on 18 June; Parr 2024). However, the scorching conditions in June and September (when temperatures of over 30°C were recorded in Wales) may have had negative consequences for invertebrate productivity that would only become apparent in 2024.

The second half of the year saw rainfall levels above average in most months, which produced soil moisture levels favourable for species, such as Chough and waders, that probe for food. Storm Babet brought the most impactful weather event of the year: England and Wales combined had its third wettest three-day period on record on 18-20 October, and Storm Ciarán on 1-2 November brought 30-50 mm of rain to South Wales over two days. It proved to be the ninth wettest year on record for Wales, in a series from 1836, with the annual total 24% above the 1961-90 average.

These were two of 10 named storms to hit the UK, between 5 August and 28 December. These anticyclones generally arrive across the Atlantic, with strong winds and heavy rain. Ex-Hurricane Lee in mid-September brought an unprecedented influx of Nearctic passerines to Wales and other parts of the UK, explained by an almost unique combination of the timing and pathway of a fast-moving low-pressure system, and the unusual lack of associated precipitation that may have promoted above-average survival rates (Lees *et al*. 2024). Further weather systems, such as Storm Agnes, on 27-28 September, enhanced by energy from Tropical Storm Ophelia, probably came too late to extend the run of rarities, but may have been responsible for the third Black-and-white Warbler of the season on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, as well as a gust of 134 kph at Capel Curig, Caernarfonshire.



For the second successive year, 2023 was the warmest year for UK near-coast sea surface temperature (SST), in a series from 1870. The SST was 1.3°C above the 1961-90 average, with greater increases across the southern North Sea than in the west of the UK, which is more strongly influenced by the Atlantic. This is suspected to have been a contributory factor in the mass die-off of some seabird species, particularly of Guillemots, around the UK coast in late summer. In Wales, although unquantified, large numbers of auks were washed up around the coasts of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Caernarfonshire in September. Tests of birds in Scotland showed that many were just half of their typical bodyweight, with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology confirming that birds had died of starvation.

Data from the tide gauge at Newlyn, Cornwall, one of the longest available records around the UK, shows that sea level is rising, with 2023 the highest year on record since 1916. There was no comparable data on sea level for Wales, but the UK data shows that the rate of sea-level rise has been increasing, and is running at 2.4 ± 0.3 mm/year since 1960 (i.e. 13.2-17.0 cm during that period).

BIRD RECORDING IN WALES

The vast majority of records used to compile the Welsh Bird Report, and the data presented from national recording schemes, are collected by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. We sometimes lament our lack of knowledge about birds in Wales, but it is far more complete thanks to this army of unpaid expertise than it would otherwise be. The backbone of this huge collation of records is the bird clubs and the network of county bird recorders that they support, plus the bird observatories on Bardsey and Skokholm, with their long run of monitoring effort. A list of bird reports appears on page 265.

The Welsh Ornithological Society uses the Watsonian vice-county system (hereafter referred to as counties for simplicity) as the basis of bird recording in Wales, illustrated on the map, here (see the Ray Society, publication no. 146). This system largely matches the pre-1974 political administrative counties, but there are small differences shown on the map.

Counties in Wales used for bird-recording. Note the zones that differ from the 'old' counties: in (a) records are maintained by Denbighshire (VC50), although it is administratively in Powys; those from (b) and (c), while historically in Breconshire, are maintained by recorders in East Glamorgan and Gwent respectively; area (d), while historically in Gwent, is part of the East Glamorgan recording area and follows the modern boundary of the Cardiff and Newport unitary authorities.

Bird data collected in Wales

This Report uses statistics collected by several monitoring schemes, and two that collect birdwatchers' records from across the world. All these below contribute to assessments of conservation status in Birds of Conservation Concern Wales 4 (Johnstone *et al*. 2022, 2024), except for the BTO Garden BirdWatch.

Indices of 60 breeding species are presented from the UK Breeding Bird Survey, where the species occurs in a minimum of 30 randomly-selected 1-km squares in Wales. These squares are visited twice each spring to record all the birds present, with habitat information also collected. The Breeding Bird Survey is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is jointly funded by the BTO, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)*. The blue dots show the annual index and the red line shows the smoothed trend; the blue shading, where shown, denotes the 85% confidence intervals.

Headline figures for Wales from BirdTrack show the number of records received in Wales and, importantly, the proportion of 'complete lists' on which the species occurred during the year. BirdTrack lists convert unstructured sightings into data that can be analysed, as well as providing a platform for birdwatchers to maintain their records and submit them automatically to local bird recorders. For selected species, reporting rates since 2012 are shown for interest. These are neither as robust nor as representative as the BBS trends, not least because of a strong geographic bias towards sites that appeal to birdwatchers and, in 2020, to gardens and urban areas. BirdTrack is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology for the BTO, RSPB, BirdWatch Ireland, Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society.

Indices of waterbirds in Wales are presented using data collected from the Wetland Bird Survey, the current incarnation of surveys to monitor ducks, geese, swans and waders since the 1960s, and which now extends to divers, grebes, cormorants, crakes/rails, gulls, terns and Kingfisher. Volunteers count all waterbirds present on estuaries, inland waterbodies and some stretches of open coast at high tide each month. Where a trend is shown, blue dots show the annual index and the red line shows the smoothed trend; blue shading denotes the 95% confidence intervals. Data is from Waterbirds in the UK 2022/23 © copyright and database right 2024. WeBS is a partnership jointly funded by the BTO, RSPB and JNCC*, with fieldwork conducted by volunteers and previous support from WWT. Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. For any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (**webs@bto.org**).

Data from the Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP), funded jointly by BTO and JNCC* in association with the RSPB, was used to supplement information in bird reports.

For non-breeding species for which casual records in Wales are considered to be representative of occurrence, data since 2000 have been used to produce charts for almost 50 species. We encourage WOS members and Welsh Bird Report readers to register on **BirdTrack.net** and use it whenever you are birding, and for those who are able to commit to regular surveys, to contact their BTO.org regional representative.

Finally, the Welsh Ornithological Society and all the county recorders in Wales support the work of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel whose annual report is published in *British Birds*. To encourage greater coverage of the rare and scarce breeding species, their current Welsh status is shown in the relevant species headers here. All breeding evidence, including the presence of birds in suitable breeding habitat at the right time of year - including non-native species - is important to the assessment of the county, Welsh and UK

* JNCC involvement in the partnerships listed is on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and NatureScot.

populations of these rarer species. A list of the RBBP species that occur in Wales is on the WOS website: **https://birdsin.wales/recording-rare-birds**.

For selected species, where an interesting change is evident, the reporting rate for gardens participating in the BTO Garden BirdWatch is cited in the text.

Rare and scarce birds in Wales

The Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC) is part of the Welsh Ornithological Society and considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Records considered in 2023 were published in issue 2 of this volume, on the WOS website (Green 2024).

Descriptions can be submitted via county recorders or direct to the WBRC Secretary. Forms are available from county recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the WBRC can see its deliberations on the record on request. The Committee has five voting members and a non-voting Secretary. Membership in 2023 comprised: Steve Stansfield - Bardsey (Chair), Richard Brown – Skokholm and Pembrokeshire, Steve Culley – Anglesey, Chris Jones – Denbighshire, Simon Murray – Eastern Glamorgan and Gower, Paul Roberts – Eastern Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfonshire, and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green – Ceredigion.

Category A species assessed by the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (from January 2023).

Taiga Bean Goose	Red-necked Phalarope	Bee-eater	Melodious Warbler
Tundra Bean Goose	Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-footed Falcon	Icterine Warbler
American Wigeon	Ring-billed Gull	Red-backed Shrike	Barred Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Caspian Gull	Woodchat Shrike	Bluethroat
Surf Scoter	White-winged Black Tern	Golden Oriole	Nightingale
Smew	White-billed Diver	Penduline Tit	Red-flanked Bluetail
Alpine Swift	Wilson's Petrel	Shore Lark	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Corncrake	Cory's Shearwater	Short-toed Lark	Citrine Wagtail
Spotted Crake	Great Shearwater	Red-rumped Swallow	Olive-backed Pipit
Red-necked Grebe	Night-heron	Pallas's Warbler	Common Rosefinch
Stone-curlew	Purple Heron	Radde's Warbler	Serin
Black-winged Stilt	Golden Eagle	Dusky Warbler	Corn Bunting
American Golden Plover	Montagu's Harrier	Greenish Warbler	Ortolan Bunting
Temminck's Stint	Black Kite	Arctic Warbler	Cirl Bunting
White-rumped Sandpiper	White-tailed Eagle	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Little Bunting
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Rough-legged Buzzard	Marsh Warbler	Rustic Bunting
Pectoral Sandpiper			

Scarce subspecies are considered on the same basis, i.e. those occurring on average five times or fewer annually. Examples include:

Black Brant – *nigricans*	Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*	Treecreeper – *familaris*
Black-tailed Godwit – *limosa*	Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*	Grey-headed Wagtail – *thunbergi*
Bar-tailed Godwit - t*amyrensis*	Jay – *glandarius*	Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*	Jackdaw – *monedula*	Redpoll – *islandica, rostrata* and *exilipes*
Razorbill – *torda*	Coal Tit – *ater*	Snow Bunting - *nivalis*

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may not have been submitted or still be under consideration. It is helpful if descriptions of BBRC and WBRC species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting. Records should be submitted to BBRC through

county recorders to **secretary@bbrc.org.uk**. If it is a written or typed description, please send it to the WBRC Secretary who will scan and send it on to the BBRC. Jon Green, Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email: **welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**.

It is WOS policy only to publish records of species assessed by the BBRC or WBRC once accepted by the relevant body.

Treatment of records in the *Welsh Bird Report*

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2023 unless otherwise indicated. Bird reports were available for all recording areas except Gwent, Eastern Glamorgan and Radnorshire. Records submitted to BirdTrack and eBird have been used for these counties and, for some species, to supplement information for counties that produce summary reports. Any errors or omissions will be corrected in the 2024 report.

Species names and order follow the International Ornithological Congress taxonomy, but vernacular names in English and Welsh are those that are widely used by birders. The species included in the main list are those placed by WOS in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state in Wales at least once since 1 January 1950) or Category C (introduced species that have a self-sustaining population). A list of birds that have been recorded in Wales is available at **birdsin.wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee.**

The status summaries (in italics below each species name) are based on assessments published in *The Birds of Wales/Adar Cymru* (Pritchard *et al*. 2021), using population estimates in Burnell *et al*. (2023), Hughes *et al.* (2020) and Eaton *et al.* (2024). The definitions used, based on records during 1990-2019, are: **Abundant, Fairly Common, Uncommon/Localised, Scarce** (more than 35 records, but fewer than five birds per year in the last few years), **Rare** (10-35 birds in past 30 years), **Very Rare** (3-9 birds in past 30 years) and **Extremely Rare** (0-2 birds in past 30 years) – see Thorpe and Stratford (2021). For rare breeding species, the total for its most recent appearance in the RBBP report are cited (*e.g.* Eaton *et al*. 2024).

Waterbird alerts for Wales are from Woodward *et al*. (2019) and trends in non-estuarine waders are from Humphreys *et al*. (2021). For some species, monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. These figures are the peak count recorded at each site in that month and may not be coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

The number of records in BirdTrack and the proportion of complete lists submitted (the reporting rate) are shown for species that are not rare or scarce, and which have at least 10 records in either this year or last. Reporting rate charts are shown for selected species, primarily those whose trends are not tracked through a monitoring scheme, such as the BBS or WeBS. For those species whose BoCC Wales status is determined using records from the *Welsh Bird Report*, bar charts show the number of records.

WOS and county bird recorders have formally agreed the adoption of county names in both Welsh and English languages, which are shown on the website **birdsin.wales**. These reflect local usage, even though they vary in their use of the '-shire' suffix. These names are shown on the map on page 11, but for conciseness, the systematic list uses shortened forms (*e.g.* Brecon, not Breconshire).

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E.GLAMORGAN and GOWER. Where sites border two vice-counties (mostly estuaries), records are shown based on the county from which they were seen, unless they were reported from both, such as on the well-watched Teifi estuary where birds are frequently reported from Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. In these instances, the maximum number/date range is reported, even if the exact dates and numbers differ slightly from each side.

On Anglesey, although Llyn Traffwll is part of RSPB Valley Wetlands nature reserve, it is counted separately

from the rest of the site in the Wetland Bird Survey, and we follow that convention. Most of RSPB Conwy nature reserve is in DENBIGH, but a very small part of the reserve lies in CAERNARFON. Much of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands nature reserve is in Wirral, but this report includes records where birds were known to be in FLINT. The Clwyd estuary straddles the county border with Flintshire, but all records downstream of Rhuddlan are allocated to DENBIGH.

The records for some species are summarised to show the total recorded in each month for each county. Where a bird stays into two or more months it is recorded for each month. In tables of early and late migrants, the most extreme date in Wales is shown in bold type. Where comparable counts are shown for breeding seabirds, those that are lower in the current year are shaded grey. For breeding species, the conventions of confirmed, probable and possible breeding are followed (as per Balmer *et al.* 2013, for example), but those that are confirmed or reported as "bred" do not assume that nesting was successful. The conservation status of each species in Wales is noted as Red, Amber or Green species of conservation concern in Wales, from Johnstone *et al.* (2023), updated for seabirds in Johnstone *et al*. (2024). A consolidated list of birds of conservation concern is at
birdsin.wales/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BoCCW4-consolidated-list-September-2024.pdf

Abbreviations used in the report

AOL	Adults on Land
AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
AOS	Apparently Occupied Sites
asl	above sea level
CP	Country Park
CQNR	Connah's Quay NR
est.	estuary
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
mtDNA	mitochrondial DNA
NR	Nature Reserve
NNR	National Nature Reserve (designated)
P	Species present (in tables)
Pt	Point
R.	River
Res.	Reservoir
RG	Ringing Group
WP	Water Park
WTW	Water Treatment Works

Birds are aged according to their calendar year, as transcribed in the table below.

Welsh Bird Report description	Non-calendar description
Juvenile	Used only in relation to birds at nest/colony
1CY	Juvenile, first-winter (to 31 Dec.)
2CY	1st winter (from 1 Jan.), 1st summer, 2nd-winter (to 31 Dec.)
3CY	2nd-winter (from 1 Jan.), 2nd-summer, 3rd-winter (to 31 Dec.)

RECORDS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

In addition to the systematic list for 2023, attention is drawn to the following records of species and subspecies accepted by the relevant rarities committee that did not occur this year, but which featured in Green *et al*. 2024:

CRANE *Grus grus* GARAN
GWENT: contrary to the statement about absence in 2020, a 'new' female was seen in the area in which a pair bred in 2019, from 8 April to 10 July. It was hatched and reared in the wild in Somerset in 2017 by two birds released by the Great Crane Project.

SOOTY TERN *Onychoprion fuscatus* MOR-WENNOL FRAITH
ANGLESEY: 6CY+ at Cemlyn on 13th June 2020 ,the third Welsh record.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* GWYLAN BONAPARTE
FLINT: Rhyl GC on 28 Sept. 2021.

BAROLO SHEARWATER *Puffinus baroli* ADERYN DRYCIN BAROLO
PEMBROKE: accepted following a review by the BBRC, male held territory on Skomer 26 June to 10 July 1981 and 21 June to 25 July 1982; Strumble Head on 21 Sept. 1984, 7 Oct. 1988, 5 Nov. 1989 and 12 Sept. 1997.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia* EOS FRAITH
CAERNARFON: 2CY on Bardsey on 2 June 2022, the second record for the island and Wales.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR *Oenanthe isabellina* TINWEN ISABELLINE
ANGLESEY: 2CY male at Carmel Head on 30 Aug. 2020.

ASHY-HEADED WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava cinereocapilla* SIGLEN FELEN BEN-LLUDW
GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 6 May 2021. This was the first record of this subspecies in Wales.

Escape

ZEBRA FINCH *Taeniopygia castanotis* PILA GWELLT RHESOG
2020 GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 20 July.

ERRATA IN *WELSH BIRD REPORT 2022*

Night-heron (p.144). The record at Hensol Lake, E.GLAMORGAN, was 1 July 2019, not 1999.

Western Subalpine Warbler (p.144). The record on Skomer was from 2018.

Long-tailed Duck (p.172). The 2022 total displayed in the chart was incorrect. See the account in this report for the correct total.

Herring Gull (p.233). In the table, the count of 1750 for November was at Pontsticill Res., not Llangorse Lake, which should have been blank.

Wryneck (p.276). BRECON: the singing male was on 8 April 2021, not 8 June.

In the Appendix of escaped birds (p.366), the Long-toed Lapwing in Meirionnydd was a data entry error and should be deleted.

ERRATUM IN *WELSH BIRD REPORT 2020*

Tundra Bean Goose (p.23). The bird in GWENT was initially found in the Nedern valley on 15 Nov.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to every birdwatcher who submitted a record during 2023. This report would be nothing without you. And an even bigger thank you to the county recorders, bird report editors and Observatory staff who compile their reports, shared their drafts and answered my queries so promptly. I would also like to thank Bob Haycock for help with breeding seabird records.

Thanks also to those who supplied records to supplement those in bird reports, including RSPB Cymru and ringing groups and individuals acknowledged within species accounts. Thanks also to Lee Barber (British Trust for Ornithology) for compiling the Ringing Report and Rachael Barber for producing the maps; to Reg Thorpe and Adrienne Stratford for updating the Welsh List on behalf of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee; and to the photographers credited in the captions. Special thanks to Ian Spence for undertaking the design of the Report once again.

Julian Hughes, Editor.

Waxwing (Ed Betteridge)

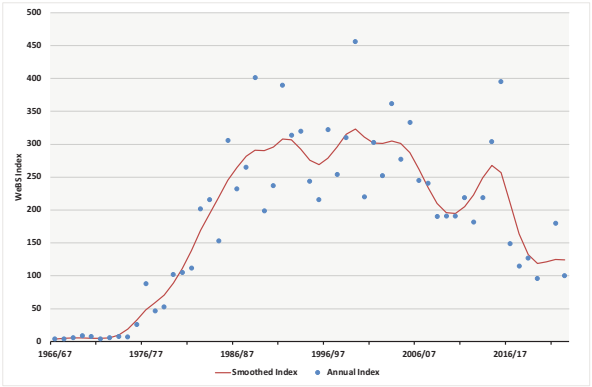
SYSTEMATIC LIST

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* GWYDD DDU

Regular wintering populations are found in the Burry Inlet, Beddmanarch Bay and around the Menai Strait. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded in winter and on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	400	468
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Dark-bellied Brent Goose in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



***B.b. bernicla* (Dark-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Fol-dywyll)**

Amber WeBS alert: -36% long-term, greater than in England.

Following an increase in numbers in winter 2021/22, the Wetland Bird Survey index dropped back to levels similar to 2019/20 because of lower numbers on the Burry Inlet, GOWER.

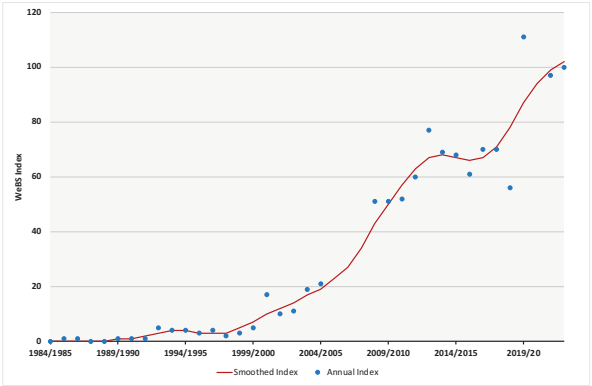
Dark-bellied Brent Goose: site maxima		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER	Whiteford	235	506	360			>100	200	173
	Llanrhidian	200		118					228
	Salthouse Pt/Crofty	394	390	270				152	521
	Wernffrwd/Pwll-y-froga	350	36	380			160		521
	Port Eynon Pt	25	124	218				60	20
CARMARTHEN	Burry Inlet north	364	50	195	3	40	24	157	100
	Taf/Tywi/Gwendraeth est.	5	3				5		15
CAERNARFON	Foryd	21	26	30	3		6	14	8

Other large counts. GOWER: 274 in Broughton Bay on 24 Jan.; 205 at Weobley on 31 Oct.; 120 at Llanmadoc on 17 Dec.

***B.b. hrota* (Pale-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Canada)**

The Wetland Bird Survey index, combined for both subspecies, reached a record high thanks to a further 3% annual increase in the Pale-bellied count on the previous year. Numbers in the whole Dee estuary reached a new high (max. 496 during winter 2022/23), with a greater proportion on the Welsh side and not only around their usual areas of West Kirby and Hilbre, Wirral.

Wetland Bird Survey: Pale-bellied Brent Goose in Wales 1984/85-2022/23



Pale-bellied Brent Goose: site maxima		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	22	38	35	31	10	52	50	44
CAERNARFON	Foryd	200	200	250	159	16	241	70	32
	Traeth Lafan	37	61	11	91	1	9	68	55
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	250	294	394	104	100	485	503	120
	Traeth Melynog	331	348	64		79	454	75	628
	Beaumaris-Penmon	70		6	100				
	Traeth Coch	90	106	137				22	
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	6	23	22			1	12	
FLINT	Dee estuary, inc Gronant	259	118	139			11	28	253

Max. counts at other sites. E.GLAMORGAN: 32 at Ogmore est. on 14 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 25 on Gwendraeth est. on 28 Jan.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 35 on Teifi est. on 13 Sept. was a site record; CEREDIGION: 29 at Ynyslas, nine at Wallog on 12 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: one at Dolydd Hafren on 2-22 Jan. and also at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on the last date was unusual for an inland county; ANGLESEY: max. 37 at Ynys Llanddwyn in Feb. and 34 in March.

Brent Goose: totals elsewhere.

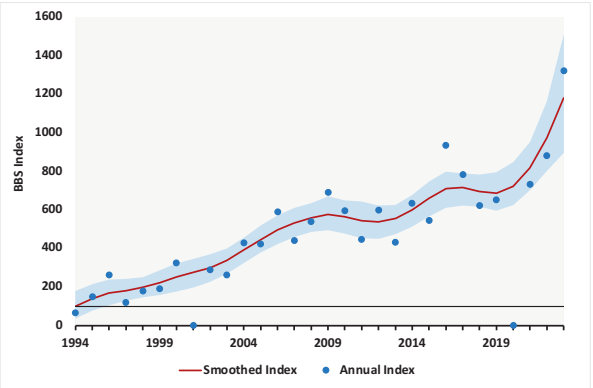
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
bernicla	5	38	14	7	1					10	28	11
hrota	19	52	23	130					101	67	17	31
race unknown	13	4							2	2	2	

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* GWYDD CANADA

Fairly common (8850 breeding pairs) and increasing introduced breeding resident (Category C). Large post-breeding gatherings occur.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	5226	5796
% of BirdTrack lists	23%	25%

Breeding Bird Survey: Canada Goose in Wales, 1994-2023



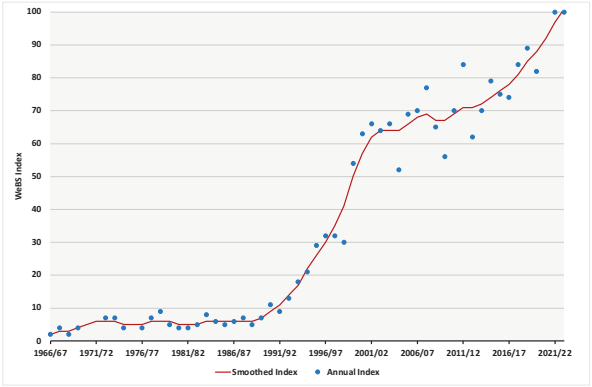
A remarkable 50% increase in the Breeding Bird Survey value in just one year has brought the long-term index to 596% above its 1995 baseline, the greatest of any species monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey. This reflects establishment at a record number of sites, including several at high altitude lakes and moorlands in recent years. The BirdTrack reporting rate also reached a record high, although a more conservative 11% increase on 2013-15.

For reasons of space, the *Welsh Bird Report* will no longer summarise breeding evidence for each county, as the species is now a regular breeder across Wales. Among the high elevation sites from which breeding was proven or suspected in 2023 were in BRECON, Beacons Res. (400m asl) and Cantref Res. (330m), in MONTGOMERY at Llyn Clywedog (280m) and Llyn Mawr (395m), in MEIRIONNYDD at Llyn Caer Euni (320m) and Tanrallt (450m), in CAERNARFON on Llyn Eigiau (370m), Llyn Conwy (450m) and Llynnau Cwm Silyn (330m), and in DENBIGH at Aled Isaf Res. (365m) and Llyn Brenig (375m). On ANGLESEY, Canada Geese

bred on The Skerries, and possibly on Ynys Moelfre.

Non-breeding: the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index has moved upward consistently for 14 consecutive years, reflecting the trend of the breeding population. The threshold for inclusion in the table has increased from 300 to 500. Post-breeding numbers on the Dee estuary were the highest ever, presumably linked to those on the Mersey estuary where an incredible 11,523 were recorded in June 2023. The September count on the Ogmore estuary was a record count for Eastern Glamorgan.

Wetland Bird Survey: Canada Goose in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Sites with ≥500 Canada Geese		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Llandegfedd Res.	500	60	26	19	22	60	166	269	350	209	250	37
E.GLAMORGAN	Ogmore estuary	152	54	38	27	31	20	12	485	1135	200	406	170
CARMARTHEN	Dryslwyn/Cilsan	450	327	115	14	P	P		11	1	446	996	939
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	1150	320	92	8	10	500	330	500	550	827	404	770
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	1163	1458	666	50	255	1984	500	300	1036	185	1232	274
MONTGOMERY	Llyn Coed-y-dinas	214	40	76	20	100	P	80	P	200	120	1300	100
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	732	187	183	4	21	120	50	P	317	900	393	639
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	182	387	184	124	166	117	193	793	163	66	72	183
FLINT*	CQNR/Oakenholt	1500	1500	245	90	70	40	850	226	300	250	23	290
	Flint Saltmarsh	550	35			15	43	200		60	4500	300	2
	White Sands	250	25	27		22	16	34	1000	95	200	100	1800

*All counts are from the Dee estuary and likely to relate to the same mobile flock; also 600 at Shotwick Lake on 14 Feb.

Counts ≥500 elsewhere. MEIRIONNYDD: *c*.1000 adjacent to Broadwater on 7 Oct.; 863 at Talsarnau on 6 Dec.

2020 GWENT, additional records: 530 in Usk valley between Llanbadoc and Llangybi in Nov.; 320 at Newport Wetlands Reserve in Dec.

Canada Goose X Barnacle Goose
BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 14 March.

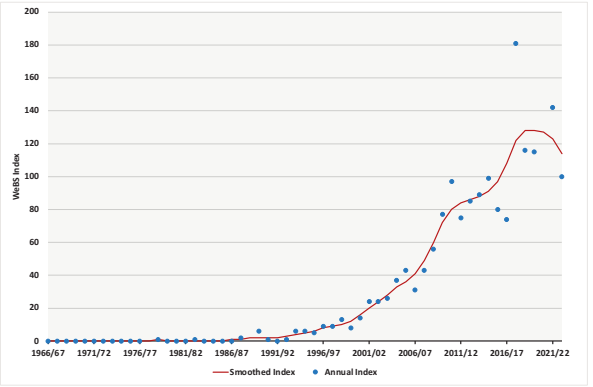
Canada Goose X Greylag Goose
Singles unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. on 2 Jan., 14 Aug. and 22 Sept.; four at Caerphilly Castle on 16 Oct.; four at Dare Valley CP on 1 and 14 Nov.; Parc Taf Bargoed on 18 Nov.; GOWER: Margam Park throughout the year; CEREDIGION: Henllan on 2 April; MONTGOMERY: Llyn Coed-y-dinas on 5 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Dinlle on 14 Oct. and 15 Dec.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 16 Sept.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* GWYDD WYRAN

Scarce breeder, but regular at two sites since the early 21st century, and winter visitor; all records assumed to relate to naturalised populations (Category C). Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	228	197
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Barnacle Goose in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding. CARMARTHEN: pair bred at WWT Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: *c*.20 AON on Cardigan Island; BRECON: min. 8 AON (six broods) on Llangorse Lake.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index – very much driven by the size of counts on the Dyfi and Teifi estuaries – has fallen over the last couple of years. The Dyfi population breeds around Cumbrian lakes, and WeBS counts there also fell markedly in 2022/23. Of 55 ringed at Llangorse Lake in 2022-23, 39 were confirmed to be present again in 2024, the majority having wintered at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

Barnacle Goose: site maxima		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	60	54	50				25	24	70	64	1	75
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	4			3				9	286	318	116	350
BRECON	Llangorse Lake		5	50	27	33	30	43	44				

Barnacle Goose: other records	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT				2					1	2		
E.GLAMORGAN				1								
CARMARTHEN	2	2	2	3		3		2	4	2		
PEMBROKE	2										1	1
MONTGOMERY			1									
MEIRIONNYDD	1				2							45
CAERNARFON				2				22	1			
ANGLESEY	4	4	4	2	2	2		1	1		3	5
DENBIGH				2	1							
FLINT	4	4	3									

2020 GWENT, additional records: one in July, three in Aug., one in Oct. and two in Dec. Correction: six in Nov.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* GWYDD LWYD

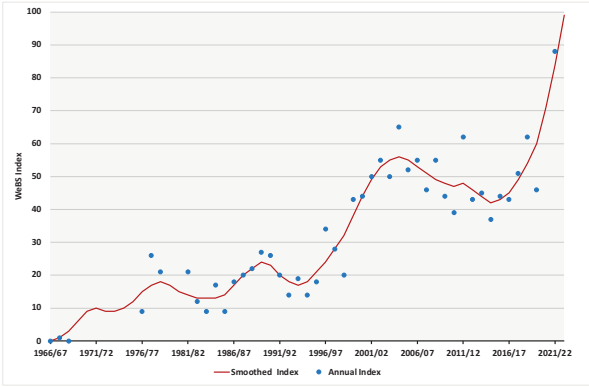
All records relate to naturalised birds (Category C). Localised breeder (1650 pairs), mainly in the north but increasing farther south.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2460	2859
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	12%

Breeding. GWENT: five broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) and one at Glanllyn, Newport; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Parc Aberdare and Roath Park; GOWER: single broods at Ynystawe and Fairwood Lodge; probably bred on Neath Saltmarsh CARMARTHEN: 7 AON at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: probably bred on R.Carew; CAERNARFON: five pairs

at a site on Pen Llŷn; three broods at Morfa Madryn; brood at The Spinnies; bred at Morfa Dinlle; ANGLESEY: 67 pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 32 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands; 6 AON on Inland Sea; 5 AON on The Skerries; four broods on Cefni est.; also bred at Llyn Maelog, Cemlyn and Ynys Feurig; DENBIGH: single broods at seven sites and possibly bred on Fenn's Moss; FLINT: three pairs bred at Gronant; single pairs at Star Crossing and Clwyd est., and bred at Nant y Ffrith Res. and Maes Mynan quarry.

Wetland Bird Survey: Greylag Goose in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index, which spans the entire period since the breeding population was founded by wildfowlers translocating birds from Scotland to Anglesey, reached a record high. However, the 2022/23 value is based on modelled data because there were no counts from Llyn Alaw, Anglesey, which held almost a quarter of the maximum count in Wales the previous winter. The BirdTrack reporting rate was also a record high, the most recent three-year mean being 70% higher than 2013-15. The threshold for inclusion in the table has increased from 100 to 150. Although far below that level, 18 at Bronydd on 4 Feb. was the highest ever count in RADNOR.

Sites with ≥150 Greylag Geese		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER	Burry Inlet - south	107	90	33	6	1	5		335		350	10	164
CARMARTHEN	Burry Inlet - north	22	36	60	63	77	92	163	12	125	65	5	10
	Dryslwyn/Cilsan	300	208	100	22	2	P			10	14	314	385
MONTGOMERY	Dolydd Hafren	100	150	21	3			20	14	17	100	200	90
CAERNARFON	Foryd/Dinlle	198	113	117	60	60	3	25	160	12	284	27	117
	Traeth Lafan	4	140	14	16	10	28	13	404	452	203	202	15
ANGLESEY	RSPB Valley Wetlands	56	24	55	46	43	172	151	150	P		1	66
	RSPB Cors Ddyga	129	200	36	57	>60	55	32	132	132	186	180	80
	Llyn Traffwll	153	10	86	34	47	300		150	30	834	138	5
	Llyn Coron	57	7	2		2	82	76	9	300	350	54	P
DENBIGH	Lleweni watermeadows	324	204	223	27	48	37	63	1		177	284	93
	Llyn Brenig		4	5	10	10	196	350				4	
	Clwyd estuary	700	238	163	42	38	84	297	390	570	620	450	>100

Counts/maxima ≥150 elsewhere: GOWER/CARMARTHEN: 153 on Loughor est. on 23 Jan. and 230 here on 25 Nov.; DENBIGH: *c*.400 at Is-y-coed on 7 Jan.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* GWYDD DROETBINC

Regular on the Dee estuary (Flintshire). Elsewhere, a scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to North Wales. Spring and summer records relate to naturalised birds, as do most winter and autumn records in single figures, especially in the south. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	495	605
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The highest count on the FLINT part of the Dee est. in the first winter period was 15,000 on 25 March, the highest ever total for the site. As usual, numbers in the second winter period were lower

(max. 5000 northeast over Queensferry on 30 Oct. and 21 Nov.) as birds are more dispersed until the end of the wildfowling season. Counts farther up the valley, around Holt, DENBIGH, were lower than usual, max. 200 at Is-y-coed on 7 Jan. and 110 on Holt floods on 21 Nov. However, larger numbers were seen along the DENBIGH coast, including *c*.1500 behind Pensarn/Towyn and over 600 on the Clwyd est. during January and around 300 in February. These contributed to a record high BirdTrack reporting rate, the three-year mean being almost four times that in 2013-15.

Pink-footed Goose: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT		1							
CARMARTHEN	2	1	1	4				9	7
PEMBROKE								1	
CEREDIGION				1					
RADNOR	1								
MONTGOMERY		30	1						39
MEIRIONNYDD			2						1
CAERNARFON	140		2			8			22
ANGLESEY	236	258	16	1			12	31	2
DENBIGH (excl. Dee Valley)	c.1855	687	27			16	50	812	86
FLINT (excl. Dee estuary)		33	8				140		

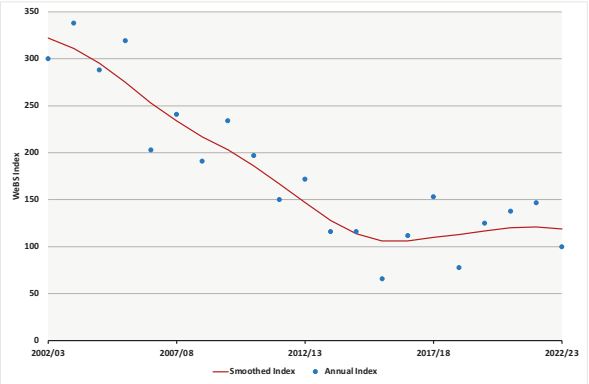
2020 GWENT, correction: three in March were not accepted.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* GWYDD DALCENWEN

Scarce winter visitor. Ceredigion and Anglesey support the only regular flocks of flavirostris. *Rare elsewhere, although hard weather can result in increases in albifrons from the east. Wales Red listed.*

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	108	64
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Greenland White-fronted Goose in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



***A.a. flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcenwen yr Ynys Las)**

There has been a global decline in numbers, with a flyway population of 18,027 individuals (57% in Britain, the remainder in Ireland), 16% lower than in 2020 (Woodward *et al*. 2024). The Anglesey count for winter 2022/23 was slightly higher than the previous year but the Dyfi count was the lowest ever, and unusually none was reported at other sites.

All records, singles unless stated: CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: up to 16 on the Dyfi est. in first winter period and 17 in the second winter period; MEIRIONNYDD: Llanfrothen on 1 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 22 in Cefni Valley to at least 8 March, and up to nine here from 20 Nov.

***A.a. albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcenwen Ewrop)**

An identical total, 39, to the previous year and double the average since 2005 thanks largely to a flock on Anglesey concurrent with the wintering *flavirostris* birds. All records, singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN:

Dryslwyn on 18-21 Feb. and two here on 15-19 April; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 18 and 20 April, and two here on 16 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 23 in the Cefni Valley on 15 Jan. and at least five here on 8 March; CAERNARFON: Glaslyn Marshes on several dates in Jan. to April, sometimes in MEIRIONNYDD; DENBIGH: 10 in the Dee Valley around Holt and Ridleywood on 10-16 Jan.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 5-28 Jan., then at Shotwick Fields on 14 Feb.

Subspecies not identified. GWENT: 12 over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 16 Dec.

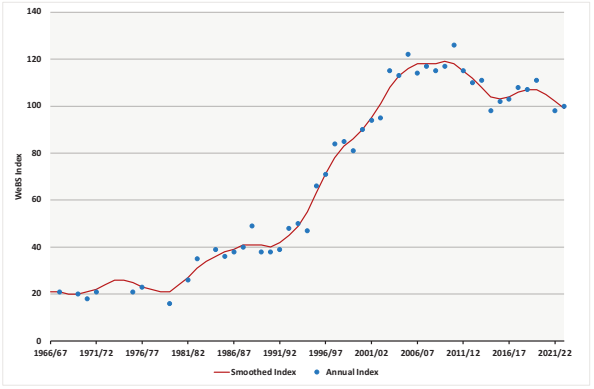
2020 GWENT, correction: one at various sites was initially found at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 Oct. and was presumed to be the same individual in E.GLAMORGAN.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* ALARCH DOF

Localised resident (485 breeding pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4364	4710
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	21%

Wetland Bird Survey: Mute Swan in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding counts, single nest/brood at each site unless stated (not full surveys except Gower): GWENT: nested at nine sites; E.GLAMORGAN: eight broods in Cardiff Bay, four nests at Roath Park, two on R.Ely-Cardiff and single nests at 15 sites; probably nested at two others; GOWER: 14 AON, of which 12 hatched 59 young and 49 survived to autumn; CARMARTHEN: two at Penclacwydd, Sandy WP and Ashpits Pond area, and one at Dinefwr; PEMBROKE: bred at 13 locations; CEREDIGION: bred at Teifi Marshes and Pont Llanio; pairs at five other sites; RADNOR: at least 20 pairs bred; BRECON: two pairs bred on R.Usk between Pencelli and Llansantffraed Bridge; two pairs bred at Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: 52 ringed from 11 nests on Montgomery Canal between Newtown and Llanymynech; also bred at four other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: two broods at Tal-y-llyn and single broods on Glaslyn Marshes and Artro est.; CAERNARFON: bred at Llyn Padarn and Abercegin; ANGLESEY: seven broods from eight pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga; three pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands; also bred at four other sites; DENBIGH: nested at four sites; FLINT: nested at five sites.

Non-breeding numbers were similar to the previous year with little evidence of further impact of HPAI, although the *Breconshire Bird Report* noted that counts at Llangorse Lake remained less than half the size typical prior to August 2021. Counts on the Dee est., FLINT/Wirral, are half that of 20 years ago, and have been declining for a decade, pre-dating HPAI.

2020 GWENT, additional record: >50 at St Brides Wentlooge in Jan.-March and Nov.-Dec. (max. 76 on 10 March); correction, bred at 16 sites.

Sites with ≥40 Mute Swan		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	St Brides	29	32	53	12	8	4		3	4	1	8	42
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	54	38	40	50	28	227	226	122	86	53	47	51
	Roath Park Lake	81	45	76	70	78	114	78	103	75	85	79	53
	Knap lake, Barry	39	45	37	39	35	31	40		38	40	51	
GOWER	Fendrod Lake	27	25	31	41	38	42	34	39	32	26	25	29
CARMARTHEN	Taf/Tywi/Gwendraeth est.	2	2	2				1		40	29	31	4
	Dryslwyn/Cilsan	13	40	15	2	2	P			3	17	27	25
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	22	10	11	10	15	83	100	24	61	37	28	42
	Pembroke Mill Pond	64	70	56	18	30	40	40	7	44	34	42	41
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	10	12	18	13	47	76	78	75	80	78	74	73
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	10	6	7	30	67	44	85	150	152	55	8	4
ANGLESEY	Cefni Reservoir	4	P	4	4	2	65	67	52	P	48	60	28
	RSPB Cors Ddyga	22	70	7	10	16	25	4	13	14	23	20	16
	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	25	15	2	1		1	1			43	55	30
CAER/DENB	Conwy estuary	6	4	10	7	6	70	26	19	14	13	7	5
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	2	4	1	34	43	18	2	10	12	7	19	28

Counts ≥40 elsewhere. RADNOR: 60 at Bronydd in March.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* ALARCH BEWICK

Localised winter visitor in vanishingly small numbers. Red WeBS alert: -63% long-term and -72% short-term. Wales Red-listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	19	6
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The WeBS index for the UK has fallen by 97% since 1990/91, and none was recorded by the survey for the fourth consecutive winter.

GWENT: two at Peterstone Wentlooge on 26 Jan. and four reported over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 28th; ANGLESEY: a satellite-tagged male (381E) ringed in The Netherlands, having staged on the Ouse Washes in Cambridgeshire, flew across South Wales to Co.Wexford, Ireland, on 30 Nov. but two days later followed the Irish coast north to Dublin and crossed the Irish Sea. He dropped onto the Cymryan Strait, ANGLESEY, at 00:30 on 3 Dec. but after an hour continued his journey east across the island, Liverpool Bay and up the Mersey valley, before turning south through the English Midlands; FLINT: two at Shotwick Fields and RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 14-19 Jan.

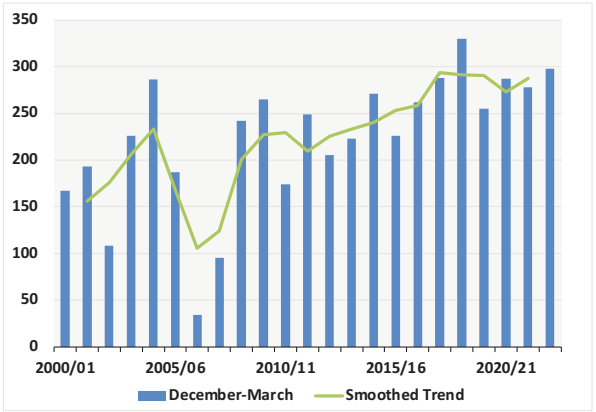
WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Regular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties (population estimate 242, <1% of the Icelandic breeding population). Red WeBS alert: -56% short-term (the greatest decline in any UK country) but +21% for long-term. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	247	287
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

The Wetland Bird Survey index, which has become less representative as flocks gather on agricultural land away from wetland count sites, attained a record high, while the sum of county maxima appears to have levelled out. Surprisingly, however, the BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen by 19% since 2013-15.

Whooper Swan: county max. during Dec.-March, 2001/02-22/23



Whooper Swan: site maxima		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN	Tywi valley	65	69	65			9	56	61
CAER/MEIR	Glaslyn valley	64	52	58	6		2	62	64
ANGLESEY	central Anglesey	8	50	54				26	
FLINT	Dee estuary	30	30	21			33	19	9

Whooper Swan: other records	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1							2	
E.GLAMORGAN	1	1						2	
GOWER							1		
CARMARTHEN	2		22				10	1	10
PEMBROKE	17	5	7	5			7	18	7
CEREDIGION	21	9	8	2			8	10	6
BRECON									3
RADNOR	2						3	4	
MONTGOMERY	2	10	1					1	2
CAERNARFON	3	8	2				18	9	1
ANGLESEY	25	27	10	2			17	17	9
DENBIGH			1						1
FLINT							11	1	1

May-Aug. records, both singles. ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24 May; Cemlyn on 17 June.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* GWYDD YR AIFFT

Introduced (Category C). Bred in Montgomeryshire in 2022. Despite an increase in numbers and range in England, it remains uncommon in Wales.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	311	252
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Fewer records than in 2022 and no repeat of last year's breeding record, although it is the species with the greatest increase in BirdTrack records since 2013-15, +1500%. It is feasible that all the records in South Wales involve three mobile birds.

All records, single unless stated. GWENT: The Bryn on 19 April; E.GLAMORGAN: two on R.Ogmore on 11-

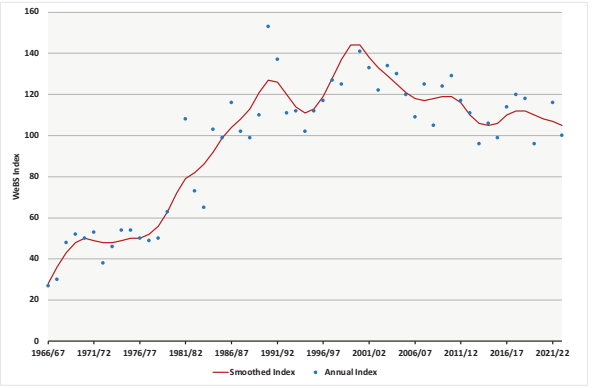
26 April, 6 June and 2 Nov.; one at Cyfarthfa Lake on 23 April; three at East Aberthaw on 15 Oct. and at Kenfig NNR on 21 Oct., then two here on 29 Nov.; two at Flemingston on 11 Nov. and 27-28 Dec.; GOWER: Port Talbot Dock on 18 May; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 17 Jan. and 14 March; two at Scethrog on 18 and 21 March, and at Llangorse Lake on 19th; four over Llanfilo on 24 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: Caersws on 5 March; three at Dolydd Hafren in Dec.; CAERNARFON: three at Glan Faenol on 10 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Beddmanarch Bay on 8 Nov.; DENBIGH: Moss Valley, Wrexham, on 25 June; FLINT: RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 23 April, six here on 17 Oct. and three on Shotwick Fields on 13 Nov.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Localised, possibly declining, breeding resident (1250 pairs) in coastal areas. Rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	3235	3685
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

Wetland Bird Survey: Shelduck in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding. GWENT: brood at Peterstone Sluice Farm; E.GLAMORGAN: two broods each on Ogmore est. and Rhymney est.; GOWER: four broods and at least two other pairs possibly bred; CARMARTHEN: three pairs bred at Penclacwydd; broods at Kidwelly Quay and Loughor est.; PEMBROKE: 14 broods on Milford Haven Waterway (see below), two on Nevern est. and one on Gann est.; two pairs on Skomer; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: two broods on Teifi est.; CEREDIGION: bred on Dyfi est. and at Cors Fochno; MEIRIONNYDD: three broods on Artro est. and one on Mawddach est. at Penmaenpool; CAERNARFON: 3+ pairs fledged 31 young at Morfa Aber; three broods at Aber Ogwen and Bardsey, two at Pwllheli harbour, and single broods at Glaslyn Marshes and Mynytho; ANGLESEY: two broods on Cefni est. and Cemlyn, and 1-2 AON on The Skerries; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: three broods on Conwy est.; DENBIGH: five broods on Clwyd est. but likely more upstream (76 juveniles here on 15 Aug.).

Long-running monitoring of Milford Haven Waterway and Daugleddau estuary, PEMBROKE, found 14 broods comprising 82 ducklings, a slight increase on 2022; productivity was 5.9/pair. The breeding population is thought to be stable. The number of non-breeding birds present in June was 62, up 10 on 2022 but still lower than the average in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate was at its highest since 2016, but the Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index has been falling and is down 27% since the turn of the century, with lower counts on the Burry Inlet, Cleddau estuary and Traeth Lafan. Despite a gradual decline on the Dee estuary, Flintshire/Wirral, the site remains the second most important in Britain. The high numbers in autumn reflect increased use of the Dee as a moulting area.

Sites with ≥100 Shelduck		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	St Brides	113	215	208	69	30	22	27	39	757	770	406	443
	Caldicott Pill	480	428	44	214	180	353	696	601	359	508	289	183
	Collister Pill	P	P	13			350	677	316		35		
	Newport Wetlands	120	307	400	102	40	40	170	515	264	150	119	60
	Peterstone Wentlooge	200	137	280	112					195	224		
GOWER	Burry Inlet – south	270	320	185	62	61	61	38	24	50	205	120	214
CARMARTHEN	Burry Inlet – north	249	244	90	104	161	289	62	27	38	110	153	116
	Taf/Tywi/Gwendraeth est.	94	115	123	18	75	27	1		9	7		38
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	153	147	202	34	10	107	17	9	7	23	72	123
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	128	235	163	30	30	24	1		5	14	260	227
MEIRIONNYDD	Mawddach est.	88	109	34							3	24	62
CAERNARFON	Foryd	92	130	142	80	29	13	8	17	6	9	47	53
	Traeth Lafan	429	287	463	55	32	26	30	25	29	54	170	330
ANGLESEY	Traeth Melynog	446	149	200	33	24	18	18	11	11	27	292	481
	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	95	128	128	39	4	P	2		11	28	79	43
	Cefni estuary	429	100	50	50	6	18	1	6	8	44	400	150
	Traeth Coch	116	137	51	2			2	2		106	175	200
CAER/DENB	Conwy estuary	52	75	100	210	250	30	20	1	10	30	18	28
DENB/FLINT	Clwyd estuary	92	118	118	124	135	92	57	67	34	38	82	68
FLINT	Gronant/Pt of Ayr	107	205	129	48	80	96	236	200	1250	1000	400	222
	Ffynongroyw	52	129	47	7	12	7	64		227	70	16	4
	Flint Marsh	50	100	56	15	48	50	25	82	300	40	1	85
	CQNR/Oakenholt Marsh	104	206	155	80	193	1200	430	112	300	125	350	85

Counts ≥100 elsewhere. GWENT: 101 at Mathern on 14 March; PEMBROKE: 105 at Hook on 10 Dec.

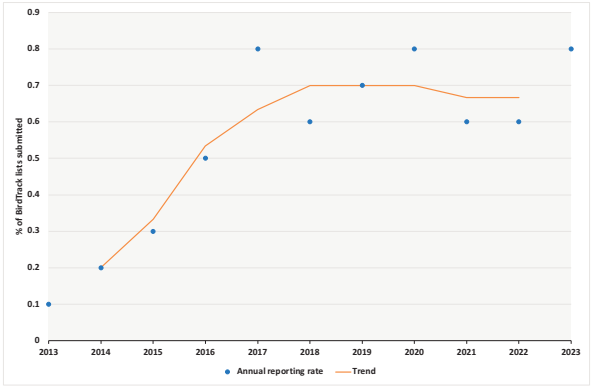
2020 GWENT, additional breeding records: two broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve; additional counts: 370 at Collister Pill on 6 July, 425 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 7 Aug. and 450 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 19 Oct.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* HWYADEN GRIBOG

Introduced (Category C). Localised breeding resident, but almost certainly under-recorded in core counties in eastern Wales.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	198	232
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Mandarin Duck in Wales 2013-23



The BirdTrack reporting rate increased to almost 1% of submitted lists, more than three-times the 2013-15 mean, with farther westward extension in records, including a record year in Carmarthenshire. It is almost certainly under-recorded in border counties with the largest numbers, although the post-breeding flock sizes were smaller than in recent years.

Breeding evidence (single broods unless stated). GWENT: R.Usk at Llanwenarth and Garnbrook, R.Wye near Whitebrook, two broods on R.Monnow near Osbaston and one at Monmouth; GOWER: bred at Gnolll Park and R.Neath at Clyne; CARMARTHEN: two 1CY on Llyn Pencarreg on 7-9 Aug. but breeding site unknown; BRECON: R.Usk at Scethrog and Crickhowell, R.Wye at Abernant, Hay, Llysdinam and Dolyerw, and possibly bred at five other sites; RADNOR: estimated >30 pairs; MONTGOMERY: small population in the east of the county; possibly nested at Commins Coch; CAERNARFON: possibly bred on R.Glaslyn south of Beddgelert and R.Conwy at Trefriw; DENBIGH: bred at seven sites and probably/possibly at four others.

Records from county bird reports where provided (supplemented by those from BirdTrack/eBird).

Mandarin: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	6	5	15	23	6	5	11	2	16		2	2
E.GLAMORGAN		2		1	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	2
GOWER	3	6	1	5			4	6	1		2	
CARMARTHEN		1	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	2
PEMBROKE			1	1				2				1
CEREDIGION	1	1										
BRECON	6	20	15	8	21	14			3	1		5
BRECON/RADNOR - Elan	8	43	67	8	10				3	85	30	39
RADNOR	4	11	22	17	4	P					20	2
MONTGOMERY			4	11	1	35	2	1	4	1	1	
MEIRIONNYDD		2		2	2				1		2	
CAERNARFON			2	5	7	3	6	4		1		
ANGLESEY	1	1					1		1	1		
DENBIGH	12	43	20	52	12	43	15	11	11	8	16	12
FLINT			2					1	1			4

Notable counts included in the table: BRECON/RADNOR: 67 on Caban Coch Res. on 13 March; 85 at Garreg Ddu Res. in Oct.; 39 on Dolymynach Res. on 16 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 30 at Red House NR, Abermule, on 9 Jun.; DENBIGH: 26 on R.Dee at Sutton Green on 26 Feb.; 29 at Froncysyllte on 26 June.

2020 GWENT, additional breeding records: broods on R.Usk near Llanfair Kilgeddin and Skenfrith, and on R.Wye at Monmouth Show Ground; largest count: 35 at Llandegfedd Res. on 26 Jan.

BAIKAL TEAL *Sibirionetta formosa* CORHWYADEN BAICAL

Extremely rare vagrant from eastern Siberia, not previously recorded in Wales as a wild bird.

BRECON: male on Llangorse Lake on 9-18 Jan.

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula* HWYADEN ADDFAIN

Recorded in small numbers on passage and occasionally breeds (10 confirmed records, last in 2021). RBBP: 1-4 pairs in 2022. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	240	233
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A minimum of 69, identical to 2022, is 50% higher than the average for this century. A pair nested at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands but it is uncertain whether nesting occurred in FLINT or Wirral; it is possible that a breeding attempt was made in Radnorshire.

Garganey	*TOTAL*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
GWENT	**14**		2	4	4		1		2	3	
E.GLAMORGAN	**6**		1	1	2	2				1	
GOWER	**2**					1				1	
CARMARTHEN	**9**			1	3	1			3	4	
PEMBROKE	**8**			4	2			1	1		
CEREDIGION	**1**					1					
BRECON	**3-4**			2						1-2	
RADNOR	**3**			at least one pair summered							
CAERNARFON	**3**		3								
ANGLESEY	**12**		2	3-5	2				5	2	1
DENBIGH	**2**		1						1		
FLINT	**4**			2					1	1	1

Earliest and latest dates in each county (none in MONTGOMERY or MEIRIONNYDD).

Garganey	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	28 March	Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff)	17 Oct.	Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	28 March	Kenfig NNR	no autumn records	
GOWER	10 June	Penclawdd	8 Oct.	Llanrhidian
CARMARTHEN	23 April	Penclacwydd	29 Oct.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	9 April	Teifi Marshes	no autumn records	
CEREDIGION	9 April	Teifi Marshes	no autumn records	
BRECON	19 April	Llangorse Lake	22 Oct.	Llangasty
CAERNARFON	19 March	Llyn Bach	no autumn records	
ANGLESEY	26 March	RSPB Cors Ddyga	**5 Nov.**	**RSPB Cors Ddyga**
DENBIGH	**12 March**	**RSPB Conwy**	1 Nov.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	19 April	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands	1 Nov.	Connah's Quay NR

There was an unusual number of both early and late county records. The first of the year, on 12 March in DENBIGH, was the joint earliest this century in Wales (*cf*. 12 March 2015 in Eastern Glamorgan). The first in CAERNARFON was the earliest in the county this century by 22 days *(cf*. 2004) and only six days later than the earliest ever. BRECON recorded its first in October this century (*cf*. previous latest on 11 Sept. 2004). Excluding winter records, the last in DENBIGH and FLINT were the latest this century in those counties, seven days later than in 2002 and four days later than in 2006 respectively.

2020 GWENT, additional records of one in June and Oct.; correction to two in Aug.

SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata* HWYADEN LYDANBIG

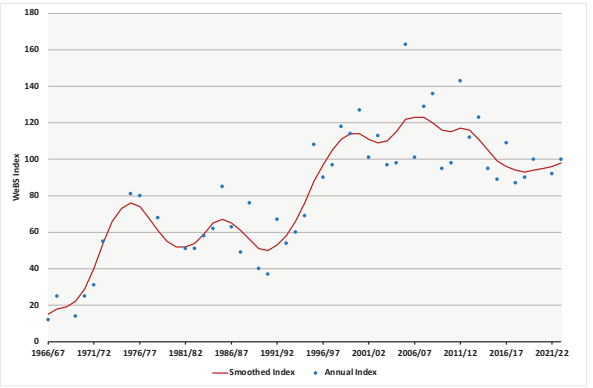
Locally common winter visitor/passage migrant and rare breeder. RBBP: seven confirmed (and 54 probable/possible) in 2022. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	1765	2116
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	9%

Breeding. The number of broods, 14, was the highest this century. CARMARTHEN: oversummered at Penclacwydd but no proof of breeding; PEMBROKE: three pairs on Skomer hatched 17 young but none fledged; pair at Marloes Mere fledged at least two; pair bred on Skokholm; BRECON: three juveniles at Llangasty in Aug. were assumed locally bred; CAERNARFON: pair bred at Morfa Dinlle; ANGLESEY: 32 males at RSPB Cors Ddyga, and six broods seen; 16 males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: possibly nested at Fenn's Moss; FLINT: 13 males on RSPB-managed parts of Dee est., but no broods recorded.

Non-breeding: numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey in 2022/23 were typical of recent years, but remained 20% below the recent peak in 2006/07. However, the number of sites holding ≥50 was almost double the mean of the previous 10 years and the BirdTrack reporting rate was higher than in any previous year. Counts on the Dee estuary, FLINT/Wirral, during 2022/23 were the highest ever (334 across the whole site in Oct. 2022), while Anglesey's RSPB Cors Ddyga has now also had three consecutive winters of levels qualifying for GB importance.

Wetland Bird Survey: Shoveler in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Sites with ≥50 Shoveler		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	60	68	66	45	10	25	10	65	95	115	89	85
	St Brides	100	34	6						9	58	150	116
GOWER	Wernffrwd	48								8	170		40
	Salthouse Pill	80			3				1	7	134		65
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	45	29	45	26	8	17	9	74	63	71	24	39
PEMBROKE	Castlemartin Corse	53		12	2						5	8	60
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	60	65	12	5				4	3	28	48	41
ANGLESEY	RSPB Valley Wetlands	65	105	54	15	7	4		1	1		52	23
	Llyn Traffwll	38	14	26	12					14	39	52	131
	RSPB Cors Ddyga	c.350	85	46	50	25	11	8	14	80	208	440	320
	Cefni Reservoir	275	40	15	5						401		141
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	31	c.80	30	20	2		5	2	13	24	20	43
FLINT	Shotwick/Border Pool	73		48	12	8	1		95	40	80	94	50
	Gronant/Point of Ayr	29	6	9	1			1			7	17	50

Counts ≥50 elsewhere. GWENT: 65 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 29 Jan.; 101 at Caldicot Pill on 15 Aug. and 100 here on 18 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 81 on Rhymney est. on 1 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: 83 at Machynys on 9 Jan.; 60 at Ginst Pt on 29 Jan. and 62 here on 22 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 55 off Traeth Harlech on 1 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 95 at Cefni Marshes on 6 Jan.; FLINT: 151 on Burton Marshes MoD on 7 Nov., part of a record estuary count of 426.

2020 GWENT, correction and addition to table:

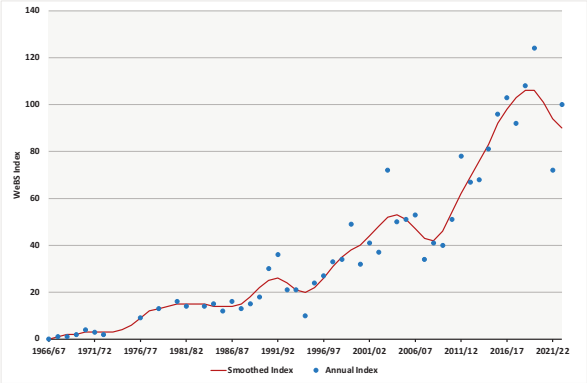
Sites with ≥50 Shoveler		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	106	154	100	37	12	10	3	30	120	23	50	98
	Peterstone	100						4	3	5	100	40	1

GADWALL *Mareca strepera* HWYADEN LWYD

Regular but localised breeding bird since 1969 (estimated 50-100 pairs). A regular winter visitor to most counties. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1679	2107
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	9%

Wetland Bird Survey: Gadwall in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding: 12 broods is typical, and it is quite likely that some of the Anglesey birds bred. CARMARTHEN: five broods at Penclacwydd and one at Dinefwr Ponds; PEMBROKE: pair on Skomer, the island's first breeding record since 2004; BRECON: may have bred at Llangorse Lake; ANGLESEY: 24 males at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 21 males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; possibly bred on Cefni Res. and Llyn Maelog; DENBIGH: 17 fledged from three pairs at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: 11 males (of 43 across whole site) and two broods seen at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Non-breeding: a recovery to usual numbers, particularly on Anglesey and the Severn estuary, after a reduction in the previous year's Wetland Bird Survey index, although counts on Llangorse Lake remained low. The BirdTrack reporting rate reached a record high, the three year-mean was 28% above 2013-15, and the number of sites holding ≥20 was slightly above the 10-year average.

Sites with ≥20 Gadwall		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Green Moor Pool		11	20						24	10	5	
	Nedern Valley	25	30	19	5	7					2	5	15
	Newport Wetlands	12	19	22	30	63	68	29	35	25	40	25	10
E.GLAMORGAN	Kenfig Pool	35	44	46	12	1		7	5	9	9	10	40
GOWER	Llanrhidian	40	10	16	4	7	3		41	4	33	5	42
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	32	30	32	25	44	54	43	88	86	84	59	117
	Penrhyngwyn Pond	35							29		54	46	
	Ashpits Pond, Pwll						12	25	22	34			
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	16	9	9	6	2	6		3	8	10	24	36
ANGLESEY	RSPB Valley Wetlands	4	4	8	4	3	14		44	56	8	22	2
	RSPB Cors Ddyga	13	25	10	12	15	4	6	1	7	24	40	6
	Cefni Reservoir	40	30	25	12	3	10		12	P	44	4	27
	Llyn Traffwll	57	56	35	26	31	31		21	27	51	40	18
	Llyn Maelog	20	9	15	6	2	20	3	4	42			14
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	56	50	56	27	25	46	17	19	14	20	29	40
FLINT	Shotwick/Border Pool	172	26	8	7	4	11		4	30	24	8	87
	Shotton Paper Mill	24	24		9	4	7	15	23	25		81	44

Counts ≥20 elsewhere. GOWER: 27 at Castell Ddu in Jan.; 20 at Penclawdd on 3 Feb.; 22 at Staffal Haegr on 12 March and 28 here on 9 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 32 in Llanelli North Dock on 22 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 46 at Marloes Mere in Jan.; ANGLESEY: 35 on Cefni Marshes on 6 Jan.

2020 GWENT, addition to table:

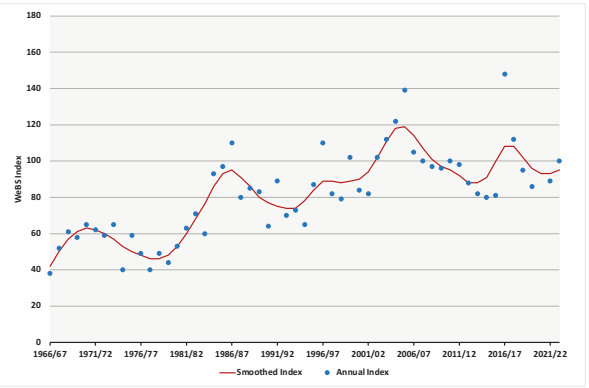
Site with ≥20 Gadwall		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Llanwern steelworks	14	11	14	10					60	34	65	46

WIGEON *Mareca penelope* CHWIWELL

Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Rare breeder: five confirmed records, but none since 1978. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2634	2893
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	11%

Wetland Bird Survey: Wigeon in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding season. GWENT: male summered at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); CARMARTHEN: two summered at Penclacwydd and one was also sporadically on the Loughor est. in June; ANGLESEY: male summered at RSPB Cors Ddyga; male on Alaw est. on 14 June, 8 and 24 July; FLINT: pair summered at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, presumed same at Connah's Quay NR on dates between 20 June and 9 July; singles at Maes-y-grug Pool on 18 June and Brickfield Pond NR on 20-30 June.

Non-breeding: although there is annual variation, the Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index has remained relatively stable since the mid-1980s, as has the BirdTrack reporting rate over the last decade. The number of sites holding ≥1000 birds was slightly below the 10-year mean, but the number of sites with ≥300 has been increasing and so the threshold for inclusion here has increased to ≥500.

Sites with ≥500 Wigeon		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Nedern Brook	318	275	59				365	621	206
	St Brides	159	500	326	2		30	78	500	108
	Newport Wetlands	783	809	349	20	1	46	134	297	200
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	330	200	172	43	6	70	41	132	500
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	298	310	169			664	1767	2885	1346
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	3361	1201	432		4	176	470	2757	2440
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	637	640	384	3		14	259	420	653
CAERNARFON	Foryd	370	266	370	4	24	560	2400	1400	1700
	Traeth Lafan	2123	2359	1551	22	19	686	1325	855	1756
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	284	500	285	3		145	508	1256	971
	RSPB Cors Ddyga	501	270	212	100	12	134	300	350	240
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	772	500	373	20	3	18	167	250	c.500
FLINT	Point of Ayr	1480	405	777			70	86	344	870
	RSPB Burton Mere	810	193	75	8		8	8	450	132
	CQNR/Oakenholt	500	350	400	2			450	400	410

Counts ≥500 elsewhere. GOWER: 618 at Broughton Bay on 24 Jan.; DENBIGH: 1800 at Ridleywood on 13 Jan.; c.800 off Pensarn on 7 Feb.; 716 at Holt on 22 Nov.; FLINT: 2500 at Sealand Ranges on 9 Nov.; 3000

at Flint Castle on 18 Nov.

2020 GWENT, correction and addition to table:

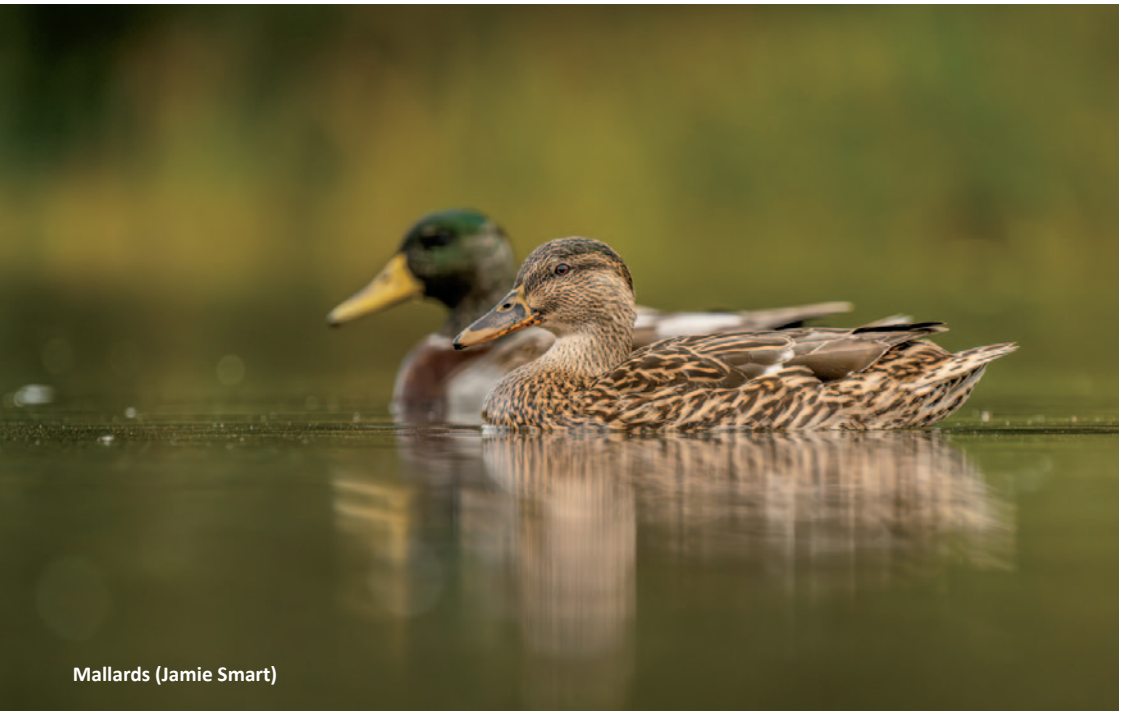
Sites with ≥300 Wigeon		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	300	200	100	4	2		2		14	80	360	1162
	Undy	23	118							427	292	28	360

Also, a Wigeon X Pintail hybrid at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 1 Feb.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Mareca americana* CHWIWELL AMERICA

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 24 previous records.

ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 2 Nov., presumed same on Cefni est. on 8-12 Dec. This was a pale-cheeked variant known by North American wildfowlers as a "storm wigeon".



Mallards (Jamie Smart)

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* HWYADEN WYLLT

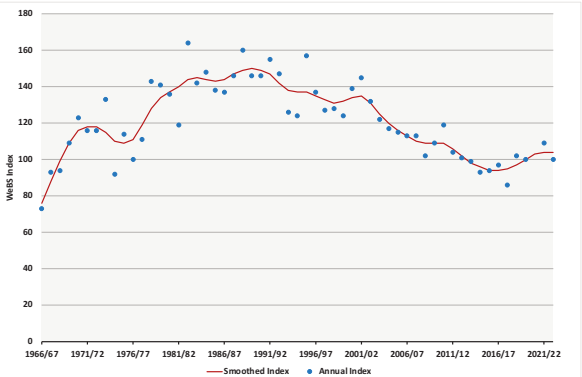
Fairly common breeding resident (4600-11,000 pairs), abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Amber WeBS alert: -43% long-term. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	8409	8998
% of BirdTrack lists	38%	39%

After quarter of a century below par, the smoothed Breeding Bird Survey index (not shown) is within 1% of its 1995 level. The non-breeding index appears to have stabilised after a 37% decline between 1989/90 and 2016/17; the extent to which that is

influenced by changes in numbers released for shooting is not known.

Wetland Bird Survey: Mallard in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Sites with ≥200 Mallard		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	274	151	21	29	57	80	130	97	410	358	132	80
	Nedern Valley	148	79	44	44	48		13			198	338	194
	St Brides	162	49	77	34	70	124	70	184	276	115	70	86
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	72	70	66	58		146	256	129	141	126	100	93
GOWER/CARM	Loughor estuary	21	2	24	2	14	65	125	250	70		24	50
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	244	150	169	166	165	241	319	213	206	336	283	67
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	163	174	96	5	19	219	191	77	162	118	301	314
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	173	110	72	24	30	27	23	72	190	88	203	91
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	225	139	132	24	46	275	140	56	163	>150	74	60
CAERNARFON	Foryd	60	54	60	28	97	110	162	410	150	35	62	17
	Traeth Lafan	208	343	135	13	40	82	115	179	143	150	104	138
ANGLESEY	RSPB Cors Ddyga	210	50	48	28	34	32	23	113	83	124	75	55
	Cefni estuary	114	6	7	10	12	22	30	37	15	13	200	20
DENBIGH	Hanmer Mere	308	24	14	7	24	61		30	17	21	31	18
FLINT	Connah's Quay NR	27	18	12	20	350	500	500	600	131	119	100	93

Counts ≥200 elsewhere. GWENT: 412 at Sudbrook on 28 Aug. and 366 here on 2 Sept.; GOWER: 250 at Gwynfaen on 29 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 800 at Tŷ Gwyn pools on 27 Nov. were probably released for shooting.

2020 GWENT, additional record ≥200 birds: 290 near Peterstone Wentlooge on 6 Dec.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

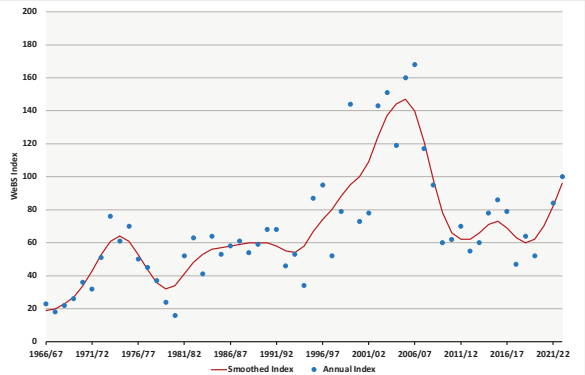
Locally abundant winter visitor to some counties. Red WeBS alert: -52% medium term, the highest of any UK country, but +42% in long-term. Bred in Flintshire in 2021. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	845	955
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

Non-breeding: it was the best year for Pintails since 2007/08, judged by a 92% increase in the Wetland Bird Survey annual index since 2019/20. The index value for 2022/23 in Wales was strongly influenced by an unprecedented count at Foryd reported in last year's *Welsh Bird Report*, but an increase was also evident in England and in the BirdTrack reporting rate. The count of 106 at Angle Bay in Jan. was the highest ever in Pembrokeshire. The threshold for inclusion here has been increased from ≥80 to ≥100.

Notable. CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd through May and on 19 June; BRECON: 99 at Talybont Res. on 3 March, a county record, attributed to extensive beds of seeding Redshank (*Polygonum persicaria*) that became established during low water levels in 2022 and remained available just below the surface throughout winter; ANGLESEY: pair at Llyn Traffwll on 20 May; two at Malltraeth Cob on 11 July; CAERNARFON: Aber Ogwen on 27 July.

Wetland Bird Survey: Pintail in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Sites with ≥100 Pintail		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Peterstone/St Brides	105	178	211	4		2	74	8	150	288
E.GLAMORGAN	Rhymney est. & Gt Wharf	185	32	146						3	82
	Cardiff Bay	27	139		9						
GOWER	Penclawdd/Salthouse Pt	118	340	166			2	121	65	17	225
	Whiteford	20	15	20				4	180	200	50
	Wernffrwd	97		38				15	987		250
CARMARTHEN	Gwendraeth/Taf estuary	20	150	27				12	78	38	27
	Upper Tywi floodplain	8	113	35					2	135	20
	Burry Inlet - north	170	84	41	2		11	128	6	353	59
PEMBROKE	Angle Bay	106	85	60				4		16	
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	232	192	220	2			52	5	236	
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	160	292	48					28	38	60
CAERNARFON	Foryd	610	460	270	2		1	135	159	220	220
	Traeth Lafan	212	260	122			5	85	160	200	240
ANGLESEY	Cefni estuary	98	*c.*375	391	10			P	13	350	350
	Traeth Melynog	193	301	231						52	135
	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	85	115	21	P				10	53	30
FLINT	Point of Ayr	360	220	222				100	160	284	350
	Flint Marsh	P					19	200	750	7	
	CQNR/Oakenholt	2	1200	1500	71			28	60	43	4

Counts ≥100 elsewhere. DENBIGH: >1000 on Dee flood meadows on 20 Jan. and 1720 here in Nov.; FLINT: 102 at Ffynnongroyw Bay on 26 Feb.

2020 GWENT, additional records for table:

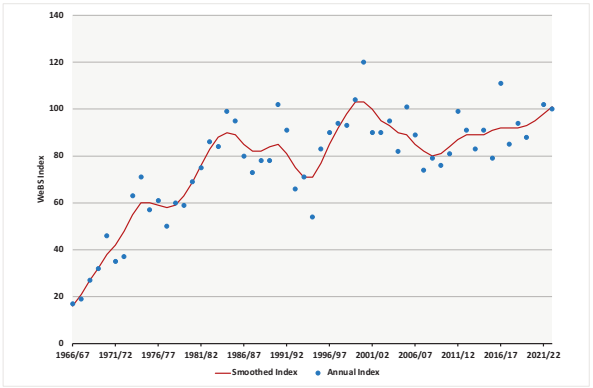
Site with ≥80 Pintail		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Peterstone Wentlooge	120	45	65	10		65	336	9	90

TEAL *Anas crecca* CORHWYADEN

Small numbers (60-250 pairs) breed in the uplands, otherwise a widespread and fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	3556	3935
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

Wetland Bird Survey: Teal in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding season: 5-8 confirmed pairs and 31 present at 15 other sites. All birds in suitable habitat. GWENT: up to 10 at Newport Wetlands Reserve in May/June; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: male at Ffynone throughout June; CEREDIGION: present at four sites; BRECON: brood at Talybont Res.; RADNOR: two broods in the upper Claerwen Valley; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: four males at a site on Pen Llŷn; three males at Cors Geirch; ANGLESEY: six males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; male at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: pair probably bred at Fenn's Moss (two fledged young on 17 July) and a second pair may have nested; FLINT: six males on RSPB Dee estuary and brood of three fledged at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Non-breeding: 14 years of gradual increase has brought the Wetland Bird Survey index close to its peak at the turn of the century. Cumulatively, smaller sites below the threshold for the table below were responsible for much of this year's increase. The year also saw the highest BirdTrack reporting rate since 2013 and, in January, the highest ever count in Breconshire (*cf.* 360 in Dec. 1992).

Sites with ≥300 Teal		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	192	173	88	52	18	15	20	73	184	200	447	353
CARMARTHEN	Taf/Tywi/Gwendraeth est.	190	250	75	12				8	224	338	436	357
	Upper Tywi valley	8	194	48		2				32	50	426	39
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	843	571	1121	56				15	98	188	624	819
	Castlemartin Corse	80		160	12							350	560
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	335	398	137	32	6	14	19		433	289	1172	380
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	540	250	100	119		1	11	11	21	16	4	30
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	568	323	194	10					78	363	700	495
CAERNARFON	Foryd	555	195	258	18		1		28	77	81	172	523
	Traeth Lafan	200	>100	55	24			1	40	94	300	100	225
ANGLESEY	RSPB Cors Ddyga	850	>500	200	156	10			30	45	320	580	520
FLINT	Flint Marsh	600	100	225	15				P	100	300	40	170
	RSPB Burton Mere	368	54	44	31	8		5		28	34	72	182
	Point of Ayr	293	133	155	40				3	100	100	176	372
	CQNR/Oakenholt	1500	450	700	150	2	15	60	400	2000	1600	268	225

Counts ≥300 elsewhere. GOWER: 300 at Cwm Ivy on 31 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 300 at Dolydd Hafren on 5 Jan.; DENBIGH: 500 at Holt on 25 Nov.

2022 CEREDIGION, breeding season: 14 pairs at Cors Caron (*cf.* recent peak of 33 pairs in 2017).

2020 GWENT, additional records for table:

Site with ≥300 Teal		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	339	513	166	33		11	18	59	167	102	217	326

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* CORHWYADEN ASGELLWERDD

Scarce visitor from North America; WBRC: 48 previous records.

PEMBROKE: Marloes Mere from 28 Nov. to 3 Dec.; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 17 Feb., assumed same as Inland Sea in Dec. 2022.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Naturalised, but scarce, despite breeding locally in England (Category C).

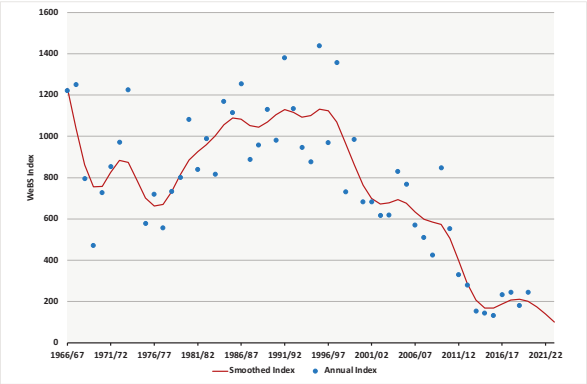
Just one record in 2023, in stark contrast to numerous records in 2022, which perhaps reinforces the likelihood that many of those sightings perhaps related to a single mobile individual in southeast Wales. CAERNARFON: Aber Daron on 13 June.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* HWYADEN BENGOCH

A declining winter visitor, chiefly to southern coastal counties, and passage migrant. Red WeBS alert: -68% short term, -76% medium and -89% long term, the highest of any UK country. Rare breeder (RBBP): four confirmed pairs, 28 probable/possible pairs in 2022. Wales Red-listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	525	555
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Wetland Bird Survey: Pochard in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding: only three confirmed breeding pairs, the lowest total since 2008, but some at Cors Ddyga may have been missed as flooding prevented monitoring in all potential habitat. CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: seven males, and at least one brood, at RSPB Valley Wetlands; four males at RSPB Cors Ddyga.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey smoothed trend reached an all-time low, 92% below its baseline in the late 1960s, but for the third consecutive year this was modelled to correct for the absence of data from Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, where access to counters is now prohibited. As the *ad hoc* records show, that site is by far the most important in Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen 48% since 2013-15. Most counties away from the southeast recorded very few: there were none in MONTGOMERY or CAERNARFON, two birds in each of RADNOR, PEMBROKE and CEREDIGION and five in MEIRIONNYDD. The largest flock in FLINT was 16 and in DENBIGH 15 birds. However, the 33 at Llangorse Lake in November was the highest site count since 2013.

Sites with ≥20 Pochard		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*			*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Ynys-y-fro Reservoirs	20	27	6						4	12
E.GLAMORGAN	Cosmeston Lakes CP	40	17	3					2	1	4
	Kenfig NNR	16	5	5	2			1			36
GOWER	Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir	130	158						45	85	5
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	8	27	10	20			P	P	P	2
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	10	9	5					8	33	5
ANGLESEY	Cefni Reservoir	35	10	35	6				10	13	8
	RSPB Cors Ddyga				9				1	2	35

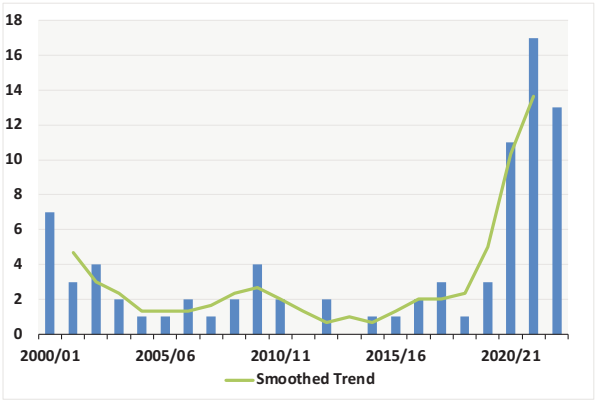
2020 GWENT, addition: brood at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth); deletion: no counts of more than five adult at Newport Wetlands Reserve during the year.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* HWYADEN DORCHOG

Scarce visitor from North America. 82 previous records.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	418	520
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Ring-necked Duck: all records, 2000/01-2022/23



This species has undergone a remarkable change in status in recent years, with a record 91 new individuals across Britain in 2022 (White and Kehoe 2024) and up to 17 in Wales in 2023, although some were return visitors. The changing status of the species (and the long-staying nature of some individuals) is evident in the BirdTrack reporting rate, which has increased more than ten-fold since 2013-15, the third highest increase behind Egyptian Goose and Great White Egret.

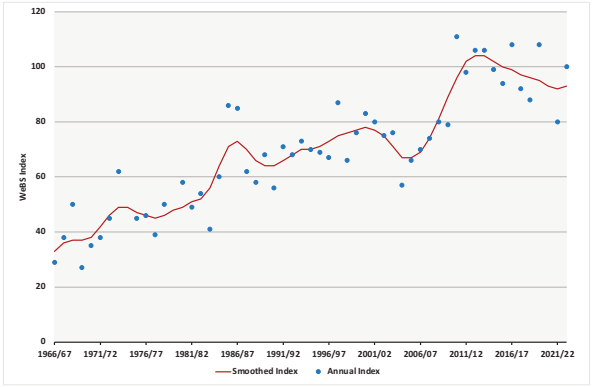
GWENT: male at Ynys-y-fro Res. from 5 Nov. 2022 to 29 April and on 20 Aug., perhaps same at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 7-9 June; female at Parc Bryn Bach on 5-16 April; E.GLAMORGAN: two females on Lisvane Res. from 2022 to 17 April (one also at Cardiff Bay, Cosmeston Lakes CP and Roath Park lake on various dates between 8 Jan. and 9 April), joined by a third female on 10-17 April; male on Lisvane Res. from 10 July to 24 Aug. and returning female here from 24 Sept. to year end; male at Llwyn-on Res. on 20 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: male at Talley Lakes on 12 Jan., joined by a female from 17 Jan. to 12 March; PEMBROKE: male and female at Rosebush Res. from 14 Feb. to 12 March; BRECON: male on Llangorse Lake on 18-28 Nov. and presumed second male here on 24 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: male on Llyn Tegid from 29 Jan. to 5 Feb., presumed same on 14 Nov. and 16 Dec.; ANGLESEY: female on Cefni Res. from 20 Jan. to 6 April.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* HWYADEN GOPOG

Uncommon breeding species (765-1350 pairs). Fairly common winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2658	3088
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	13%

Wetland Bird Survey: Tufted Duck in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding, single broods unless stated. GWENT: three broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); two broods at Brynmawr Ponds; E.GLAMORGAN: two broods in Cardiff Bay and singles at St Fagan's Museum and Cadoxton Ponds; GOWER: Tir John Pond and Singleton Pond; CARMARTHEN: three broods at Penclacwydd and one at Penrhyngwyn Pond; PEMBROKE: bred on Penberi Res. and probably at Pwll Trefeiddan, unusual on St Davids peninsula; BRECON: bred on a farm pond at Llanfihangel-nant-bran; MONTGOMERY: bred on Llyn Mawr; ANGLESEY: 33 males at RSPB Valley Wetlands and four at RSPB Cors Ddyga, with broods at both; possibly bred at Llyn Parc Mawr; DENBIGH: single broods at RSPB Conwy and Maes Mynan quarry; fledged young at Lleweni watermeadows on 7 Aug.; FLINT: six males on RSPB managed area of Dee estuary, inc. two broods at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool; single broods at Rhyl Marsh Tracks and Brickfield Pond NR.

Non-breeding: a 25% increase in the value of the Wetland Bird Survey index since the previous year, driven in particular by counts on the Dee and Severn estuaries, helped to stem the recent decline. The encounter rate on BirdTrack lists has not changed dramatically in the last decade.

Sites with ≥50 Tufted Duck		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Ponthir Reservoir	1	1			6		21	45	144	36		12
	Ynys-y-fro Reservoir	78	60	59	27		6	32	73	62	70	77	71
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	346	300	190	40	3	10	18	15	45	71	193	94
	Cosmeston Lakes CP	233	235	21	2				4	25	50	74	167
	Kenfig Pool	67	17	40	11	4			6	1	2	20	12
	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	91	96	64	60	9	20	37	42	31	13	54	93
	Roath Park Lake	80	120	116	49	8	2	1	6	23	99	92	70
	Llwyn-on Reservoir	27	17	15						22	41	50	16
GOWER	Eglwys Nunydd Res.	200	91						150		60	45	105
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	37	23	53	34	37	21	8	2	5	17	31	20
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	150	106	115	20	8	4			20	242	326	349
	Talybont Reservoir	77	1	13			18	16	24	12	16	11	8
MEIRIONNYDD	Llyn Trawsfynydd	25	79	15		19	2		P		61	56	61
ANGLESEY	Cefni Reservoir	200	40	113			P		5		15	89	73
	RSPB Valley Wetlands	44	54	66	53	24	23	2	7	1	2	40	27
	Llyn Traffwll	72	68	48	42	34	55		44	15	47	44	11
DENBIGH	Hanmer Mere	37	57	24	20	2			6	16	46	36	97
FLINT	Shotwick Lake	183	34	67	98	12	8	4	49	105	68	75	64
	Brickfield Pond, Rhyl	41	37	28	25	11	9	11	14	21	38	59	49

Counts ≥50 elsewhere. GWENT: 65 in Parc Bryn Bach on 9 Jan.; 61 at Brynmawr Ponds on 20 March;

DENBIGH: >50 at Holt on 14 Jan.

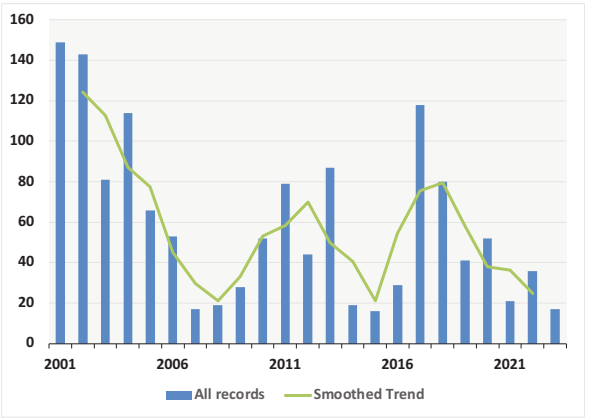
2020 GWENT, addition: bred at Hoop Ponds, Parc Bryn Bach, Dingestow and The Warrage.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* HWYADEN BENDDU

Localised winter visitor, declining since the mid 1990s. Red WeBS alert: -54% long term. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	469	317
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Scaup: sum of site maxima in Dec. to March, 2000/01-2022/23



Non-breeding: numbers in Wales counted by the Wetland Bird Survey (which may not be representative) have been stable for the last 25 years, but far lower than in the early 1990s. The total in winter 2022/23, based on the summed site maxima, was one of the lowest this century, whereas numbers in December suggested that winter 2023/24 would not be so poor. It was the first year that none was recorded on the Burry Inlet, GOWER, since 2015.

Scaup: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT				1								
E.GLAMORGAN	1	3	1								3	6
GOWER	2										1	
CARMARTHEN								1		1	1	3
PEMBROKE										1	1	4
CEREDIGION										1		
BRECON	1										1	
MEIRIONNYDD			1									3
CAERNARFON	1											
ANGLESEY	4	5	4	1						1		1
DENBIGH	1	2	1	1								1
FLINT	1								2			

Scaup X Tufted Duck

ANGLESEY: female at RSPB Valley Wetlands on 15 Aug.

LESSER SCAUP *Aythya affinis* HWYADEN BENDDU LEIAF

Very rare vagrant from North America. WBRC: nine previous records in Wales.

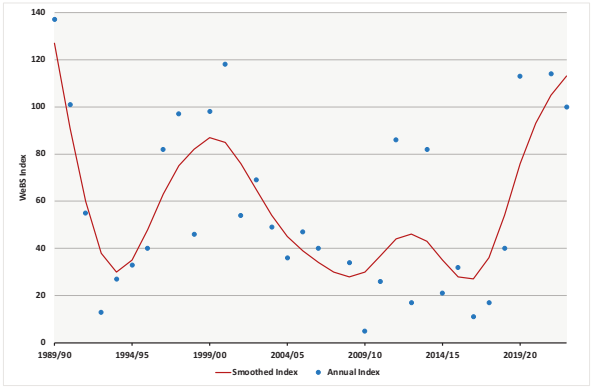
PEMBROKE: 1CY female on Bosherston Ponds on 31 Oct. and 1 Nov. and a 1CY male here from 8 Dec. to 10 Feb. 2024; 1CY female at Penberi Res. from 27 Nov. to 18 March 2024. These were the first records for the county.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Localised winter visitor and scarce breeder (<20 pairs). Wintering numbers fell dramatically in the early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Red WeBS alert: -63% long term and -61% short-term (amber alert -47% medium term). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	348	381
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Eider in Wales 1989/90-2022/23



Breeding. Only one confirmed breeding pair, although as the records below show, there were records in June/July from three other sites. CARMARTHEN: displaying pair off Cefn Sidan on 17 May; ANGLESEY: brood at Moelfre.

Non-breeding: a third year of higher numbers brought the Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index back to 1990 levels, thanks to larger than usual counts in Conwy Bay, Broadwater/Aber Dysynni and the Burry Inlet; the peak at the latter site was the third highest annual total this century. The BirdTrack reporting rate was its highest yet, 60% above the level of 2013-15.

Eider: site maxima		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER	Burry Inlet – south	85	105	152	131	54	5	41	13	66	61	60	80
MEIRIONNYDD	Broadwater and coast	19	2	54	11	9		6	12	12		4	2
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan/Conwy Bay	4	29	31	25	31	54	74	58	43	18	48	10
ANGLESEY	Penmon	2	6	20	60	60	24	16	1				7
	Moelfre-Benllech	40	22	25	10	12						6	

Other notable records and county max. GOWER: 19 off Berthlwyd on 1 Sept. was unusual so far up the Loughor est.; 40 in Swansea Bay on 23 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 23 off Cefn Sidan on 18 April and 28 here on 3 May; 24 at Pembrey harbour on 6 May and 33 here on 24 July; PEMBROKE: eight at Abermawr on 3 Dec.; seven at Wiseman's Bridge on 26 Dec.; CEREDIGION: eight off Borth on 21 April; CAERNARFON: five at Dwyfor est. on 4 April; six off Great Orme on 8 April; 11 at Foryd on 21 May and up to seven stayed here through the summer; four at Porthmadog on 29 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 13 at Silver Bay on 27 April; 53 at Aberlleiniog on 28 April; 50 at Fedw Fawr on 2 June; DENBIGH: five off Llanddulas on 11 Nov.; FLINT: four at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 23 April.

Ringing. MEIRIONNYDD: AIT at Tonfanau on 28 Feb. had been ringed at Walney Island, Cumbria. The first movement of a ringed Eider to or from Wales.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

Scarce trans-Atlantic visitor. WBRC: 76 previous records.

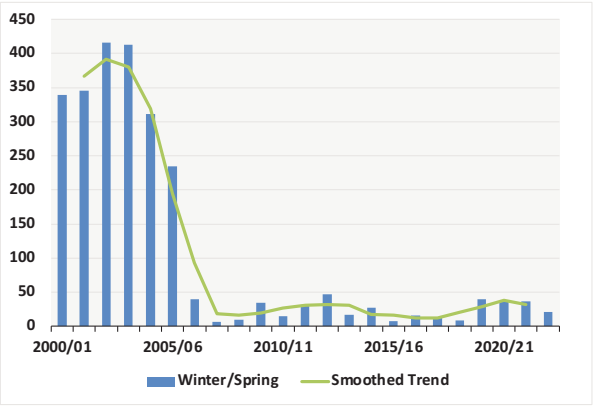
ANGLESEY: male off Benllech from 28 Jan. to at least 6 March, the second island record; DENBIGH: two males off Llanddulas in Jan./Feb., three off here and Old Colwyn from 28 Feb. to 1 April, then 1-2 to 21st; Llanddulas on 25 Oct. and 6 Dec.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Localised winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage, but rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	81	147
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Velvet Scoter: county max. during Dec.-April, 2001/02-22/23



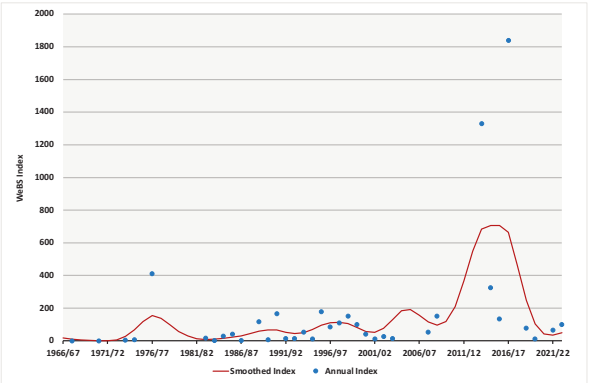
The cumulative monthly total of 15 in January was the lowest annual peak this decade. All records, singles unless stated. GOWER: Langland Bay on 21 April; CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 24 March; PEMBROKE: two at Broad Haven on 1-2 Jan.; seven passed Strumble Head during autumn; Newgale on 15 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: Aber Dysynni on 21 Jan. and 26 Nov.; Fairbourne on 12 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Criccieth on 1-21 Jan.; two off Porthdinllaen on 26 Nov.; two at Y Gamlas near Llanbedrog on 4 Dec. and one here from 19th; Black Rock Sands on 3 and 23 Dec.; ANGLESEY: three off Benllech on 4-24 Feb.; Moelfre on 21 March; Pt Lynas on 21 Oct.; DENBIGH: max. 12 off Llanddulas on 27 Jan., with 10-11 here through Feb. and March, and up to seven in April, until 22nd; six off Llanddulas on 25 Oct. and one on 11 Nov.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* MOR-HWYADEN DDU

Locally abundant coastal visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter. Numbers have increased in North Wales but declined in Carmarthen Bay. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	658	688
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Scoter in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



The Wetland Bird Survey is the only annual indication of trend, but represents poorly the totals out of sight from land, and even those within coastal waters as they are undertaken on a fixed day each month. The counts below comprise mainly ad hoc records, with five 'sites' holding ≥1000 birds, although Benllech and Rhos Point are perhaps best considered as part of a Liverpool Bay super-flock with the Denbighshire coast, and Burry Holms as an extension of the Carmarthen Bay total.

Common Scoter: site maxima		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARM/PEMB	Carmarthen Bay	1000	500	2000	500	160	500	750	6500	10	1000	6000	1200
MEIRIONNYDD	Artro estuary	135	21	30	11				P	2	55	30	1
CAERNARFON	Tremadog Bay	210	206		131			5	10	33	112	100	480
	Rhos Point	>1000	460	300	35	1		90	77	332	50	45	400
ANGLESEY	Benllech	*c.*1000	500	450		400		1		P	40	135	112
DENBIGH	Rhos Pt-Clwyd est.	8000	3300	8000	500		500	120	30	1000	1000	3000	1255

Other selected site max. E.GLAMORGAN: 29 off Lavernock Pt on 8 July; 39 off Sker Pt on 17 Nov.; GOWER: 1400 off Burry Holms on 22 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 3996 passed Strumble Head during autumn (74% adult males); 241 from Skokholm on 12 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 260 off Borth on 4 March and 320 here on 23 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 78 off Barmouth on 22 Jan.; 70 off Aber Dysynni on 4 March and 86 here on 15 Dec.; 100 off Tonfanau on 26 Nov.; 220 off Harlech on 1 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 517 off Penmaenmawr on 9 April; 931 off Bardsey on 9 Oct. (previous site record was 300 on 23 Oct. 1993); ANGLESEY: 195 off Pt Lynas on 3 Aug. and 213 here on 21 Oct.; FLINT: 58 off Gronant on 21 Jan.

Inland records, singles unless stated. BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 24-26 Nov.; RADNOR: sound-recorded in April; MEIRIONNYDD: seven on Llyn Tegid on 15 June and one here on 15 Nov.; DENBIGH: two on Llyn Aled on 3 April; Hanmer Mere on 30 June.

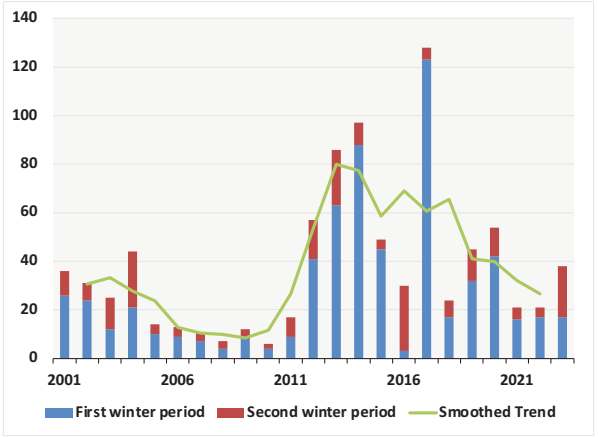
2020 GWENT, additional record: 15 off Newport Wetlands Reserve on 13 March.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* HWYADEN GYNFFONHIR

Local winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	256	333
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Long-tailed Duck: all records 2001-23



A welcome increase following a couple of poor years. There were more BirdTrack records this year thanks to several long-staying individuals, and the three-year reporting rate has more than doubled since 2013-15. The largest flock was of 10 off Black Rock Sands, CAERNARFON, in December.

Unseasonal. CARMARTHEN: female at Penclacwydd (inc. in table) from 29 Dec. 2022 to 1 May; PEMBROKE: St Ann's Head on 1 May; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: Glaslyn est. on 1 May; ANGLESEY: Llyn Coron on 5 June.

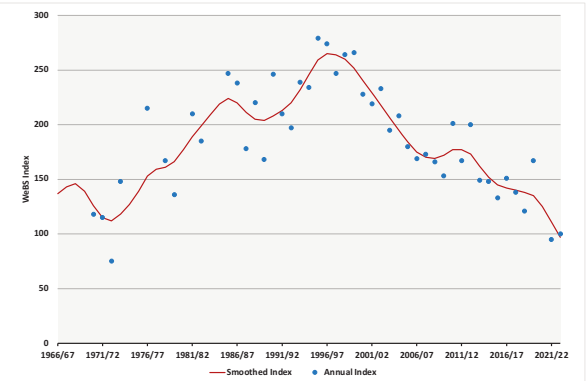
Long-tailed Duck: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT							1
GOWER						1	
CARMARTHEN	7	1	6	1	2		
PEMBROKE						1	
BRECON						1	
MEIRIONNYDD							1
CAERNARFON	1		1			10	11
ANGLESEY	3	5			1	5	3
DENBIGH	2	2	1				
FLINT					1		

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

Localised winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber WeBS alerts: -30% short term, -26% medium and -45% long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	468	612
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Wetland Bird Survey: Goldeneye in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Non-breeding: a second consecutive year of low numbers resulted in a Wetland Bird Survey index 36% below its 1996/97 peak. The number of sites qualifying for listing here was, however, close to the average this century, but aside from Traeth Lafan, Beddmanarch Bay and Llangorse Lake, all sites recorded 21 or fewer. The BirdTrack reporting rate was up on the previous year, but the three-year mean remains 36% lower than in 2013-15.

Sites with ≥10 Goldeneye		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	Kenfig Pool	8	8	10	4		2	3
	Ogmore estuary	17	8	4		1	11	16
GOWER	Eglwys Nunydd Res.	11	10		12	1	4	3
PEMBROKE	Llys-y-fran Reservoir	5	12	10			1	7
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	43	34	26	2	8	38	42
MEIRIONNYDD	Llyn Trawsfynydd	9	13	5			4	6
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	32	25	14	6	3	14	30
	Foryd	11	15	13	6		5	6
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	31	20	10		P	20	3
	Cefni Reservoir	6	20	10			2	8
	Cemlyn	9	1	2			12	15
	Llyn Traffwll	21	12	11	2		3	5
DENBIGH	Hanmer Mere	8	11	10	P	P	P	2

Counts ≥10 elsewhere. BRECON: 27 at Pentwyn Res. on 4 March; CAERNARFON: 10 off Traeth Crugan on 9 Jan.; 17 on Llyn y Dywarchen on 8 March.

SMEW *Mergullus albellus* LLEIAN WEN

Scarce and declining winter visitor, subject to cold weather influxes from mainland Europe. WBRC: c.365 records during 1967-2022. Wales Amber listed.

GWENT: male between Usk and Llanllowell from 22 Jan. to 4 Feb.; ANGLESEY: male on Cefni Res. on 4-19 March.

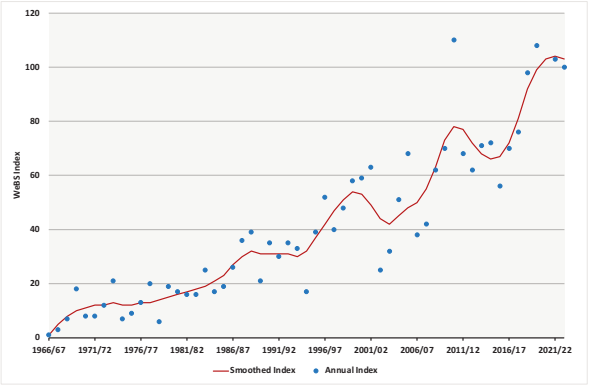
2020 GWENT, amendment: male at Llanbadoc was also at Llandegfedd Res. and remained until 8 Feb.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeds on most Welsh rivers. Breeding population is estimated at 685 pairs and the winter total at 1460 individuals. Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1627	1672
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

Wetland Bird Survey: Goosander in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding. GWENT: two broods on R.Usk at Llanwenarth and one at Usk; E.GLAMORGAN: bred on R.Cynon at Mountain Ash; GOWER: bred at Cwmafan, on R.Neath at Ynysbwllog and R.Tawe at Ynystawe; CARMARTHEN: bred at Parc Dinefwr and Cilsan Bridge; PEMBROKE: probably bred on R.Nevern; CEREDIGION: bred on R.Teifi at Port Einion, on R.Leri and at Aberystwyth; RADNOR: bred on Elan Valley reservoirs and major rivers (largest crèche of 32 on R.Wye at Aberedw on 23 May); BRECON: bred at Llanwrthwl, on R.Wye at Llanstephan and Glasbury, four sites on R.Usk, and on R.Irfon at Caer Beris; present at 10 other sites; MONTGOMERY: bred at Dolydd Hafren; MEIRIONNYDD: two broods at Llyn Tegid and Tal-y-llyn, and one each on Llyn Tanygrisiau and lower Tryweryn; CAERNARFON: single broods at Llanddeiniolen, Llyn Ogwen and Nant Gwynant; DENBIGH: brood on R.Dee at Cefn Mawr; probably bred on R.Conwy south of Llanrwst and fledged brood at Maenan on 21 July; probably bred at Erddig and Holt; FLINT: two broods on R.Clwyd at Rhuddlan.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index suggests that numbers have plateaued following a sharp increase towards the end of the previous decade. The number of sites holding 20 or more birds was below the 10-year mean, but the BirdTrack reporting rate has increased by 50% since 2013-15.

Sites with ≥20 Goosander		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Parc Bryn Bach	14		5	1						4	5	23
CARMARTHEN	Llyn Pencarreg	7	32	14				13	1	5	7	7	7
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	24	20	25	3						2	7	5
MEIRIONNYDD	Broadwater	5	9	7	6				33	9	2	6	9
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	5		3	2	27	26	12	14	50	13	5	14
ANGLESEY	Llyn Coron	17	36	40									26
DENBIGH	Dee Valley - Holt	51		8	7							33	40
DENB/FLINT	Clwyd estuary*	28	7	8	11	10	16	23	28	26	15	19	24

*includes Rhyl Marine Lake and Brickfield Pond NR

Counts ≥20 elsewhere. CEREDIGION: 29 on Llyn Eiddwen on 18 March; RADNOR: 25 on Llandrindod Lake on 31 Dec.; DENBIGH: *c.*25 on Llyn Brenig on 1 July and 30 here on 28th.

2020 GWENT, additional records:
Breeding: on R.Usk, two broods at Llanbadoc, a second brood at Llanfihangel Gobion; on R.Wye, a brood near Monmouth.

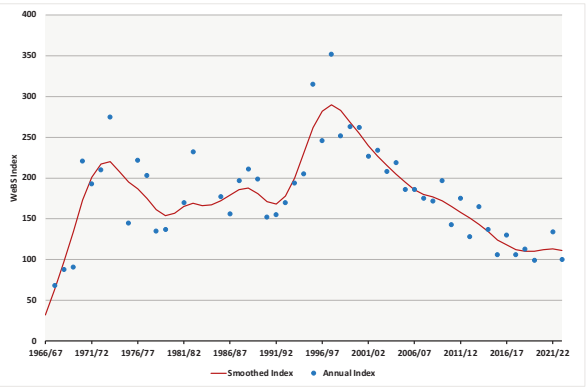
Site with ≥20 Goosander		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Blaenavon/Brynmawr	16	13	5	2						5	17	26

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Localised winter visitor, mainly to the North Wales coast. Amber WeBS alerts: -26% short-term, -37% medium and -34% long-term. Small numbers breed, chiefly in the northwest. RBBP: two confirmed and 16 probable/possible pairs in 2022. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	718	841
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Red-breasted Merganser in Wales 1966/67-2022/23



Breeding season: the number of broods recorded remains very low, and has dropped substantially (*e.g.* 11 each year during 2005-14). CAERNARFON: bred at Morfa Aber and in Nant Ffrancon; ANGLESEY: brood of seven fledged at Cemlyn.

Non-breeding: conversely to the larger sawbill above, numbers appear to have stabilised following a decline that saw the Wetland Bird Survey index fall by more than 60% in 20 years. The BirdTrack reporting rate is 26% lower than in 2013-15, but its highest since 2019. An Amber WeBS alert (-31% medium term and -28% long term) has been issued for Traeth Lafan/Conwy Bay SPA, where the peak count was 48, less than a quarter of the annual average at the start of the century.

Sites with >20 Red-breasted Merganser		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	2	20									6	5
CAERNARFON	Caernarfon Bay	32	11	8	5								
	Foryd	4	8	21	9		2	2		5	8	7	2
	Traeth Lafan	*c.*20	19	48	14	4	6	17	22	21	30	24	9
	Little Orme/Rhos Pt	28	12	7	1				4	1	1	4	18
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	33	40	22	16	4	6		5	29	38	55	33
	Traeth Melynog	2	24	25	21	5	2		5	10	30	7	9
	Penmon-Beaumaris	4	P	P	10	P	50	8	60	29		P	
DENBIGH	Rhos on Sea-Llanddulas	24	16	12	6					6	5	6	10

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* HWYADEN GOCH
Introduced (Category C), former breeding species and scarce winter visitor.

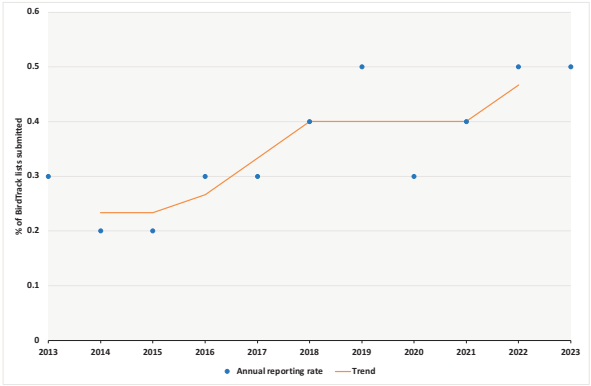
CEREDIGION: male on Dyfi est. on 4 Dec., the first county record since 2003. This was one of only six individuals reported in Britain in 2023 (per Birdguides), with another in Northern Ireland.

Red Grouse (William Lambourne)

RED GROUSE *Lagopus scotica* GRUGIAR GOCH
Endemic. Localised resident on heather uplands (835 breeding pairs). Has declined but may have stabilised in recent years. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	146	130
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Red Grouse in Wales 2013-23



The BirdTrack reporting rate is low, but has increased slightly in recent years. Site maxima during the breeding season: GWENT: two at Blorenge and Coity Mountain, one at Pwll Du; E.GLAMORGAN: family party at Waun Wen on 27 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: four in Mynydd Du area; BRECON: clutch at Mynydd Llangatwg, pair at Waun Fach and one on Y Gyrn; RADNOR: 28 on Beacon Hill in July, and present at several other sites; MONTGOMERY: 179 at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, two at Glaslyn NR, one at Moelfre, near Pennant; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at Tanrallt, two above Glyndyfrdwy and Cefn Perfedd, and singles at Moel Pearce and Moel Fferna; CAERNARFON: pair on

Llwytmor, singles at Cwm yr Afon Goch, Craig Eigiau and near Llyn Conwy; DENBIGH: 30 on Ruabon Moor/Esclusham Mountain in April (200 here during snow on 11 March), >20 in North Berwyn above Llangollen, 11 on Llantysilio Mountain and bred at Gwerclas; in Hiraethog, three above Llyn Aled and singles at Bryn Trillyn, Moel Bengam and Gors Maen Llwyd; in Clwydians, one at Moel-y-parc.; FLINT: three at Fauxdegla.

Non-breeding (max. counts or fresh droppings) elsewhere: GWENT: up to three on Sugar Loaf in Jan./Feb.; three at Mynydd Llangatwg and Waun Afon Bog in Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: Mynydd Eglwysilan on 1 Jan.; Merthyr Common on 23 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Llyn Fyrddon Fawr in Feb.; BRECON: two at Twyn Pwll Morlais on 23 Sept.; three at Fan Frynych on 30 Sept.; 1-2 at Nant Morlais and Corn Ddu in autumn; six pairs on Pen Cerrig-calch on 10 Dec.; RADNOR: two on Penygarreg on 18 Feb.; CAERNARFON: in Y Carneddau, five on Moel Wnion on 21 Jan. and a pair between here and Y Garn on 19 Feb.; in Migneint, two at Blaen-y-coed and four at Tŷ Mawr Eidda on 5 Feb.; four at Ro-lwyd near Penmachno on 12 Oct.; DENBIGH: Moel Famau on 12 Feb.; three on Penycloddiau on 8 Oct.; two south of Foelasfechan on 7 Dec.; FLINT: two on Moel Arthur on 15 Oct.

2020 GWENT, amendment: max. 11 on Blorenge on 21 Sept.; additional sites: four at Mynydd Llangatwg, four at Bâl Bach/Mawr and three at Mynydd Maen/Mynydd Llwyd.

BLACK GROUSE *Lyrurus tetrix* GRUGIAR DDU
Localised and declining breeding resident on moorlands of North Wales. There were 328 lekking males in the core area in 2018, the last year of full survey. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	82	66
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Lek surveys organised by RSPB Cymru, Natural Resources Wales, Denbighshire County Council and Cofnod found just 51 lekking males in the areas surveyed, a 49% reduction on the last full count in 2018. However, no data from Ruabon Moor were shared with the organisers; in 2018, that site held 73% of the Welsh population. Although the national total is uncertain, these results suggest poor breeding in recent years and that action to save it as a breeding species in Wales is urgent and critical. The surveys suggest a further significant loss of range from the west, with just one male in Migneint, *cf*. 30 here in 2018 and double that in 2015.

Lekking males: MONTGOMERY: three at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at three sites; DENBIGH: min. 36 in three leks from the road at Esclusham Mountain/World's End, but one lek reported to have held 34 elsewhere in the area; 19 at Llandegla Moor and Llantysilio Mountain; 12 in North Berwyn during survey (but 14 at another site in Feb.); seven in Clocaenog Forest; FLINT: six on Moel Garegog and near Llyn Cyfynwy, three each on Moel Famau and Cilcain Moors and two on Penycloddiau.

2022 DENBIGH: six lekking males in Clocaenog Forest.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* PETRISEN
Uncommon, almost extinct, breeding species. Remaining populations are probably maintained by releases. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	12	8
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

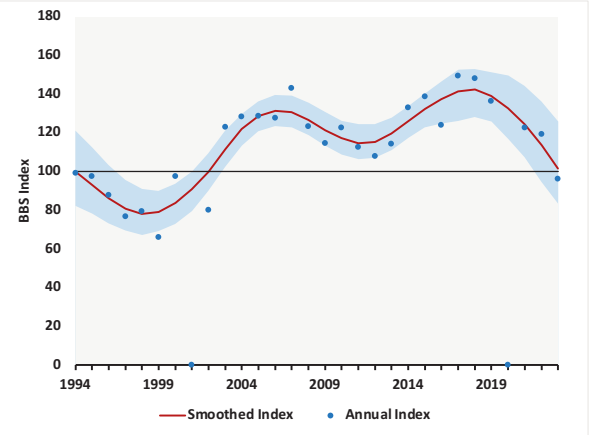
Singles unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: two at Penllyn Moor on 23 July; MONTGOMERY: released at Bacheldre near Churchstoke, and Commins Coch; ANGLESEY: Cambrian Bird Report states that a few pairs are extant on Bodorgan Estate, which was likely to be the source of two near Llyn Coron on 16 April; DENBIGH: pair near Plas Nantyr on 1 May; Llanarmon-yn-Ial garden on 3 Sept.; 6-20 near Bangor Is-y-Coed on 3 Nov.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* FFESANT

Introduced (Category C) and fairly common throughout Wales (165,000 breeding pairs). Many more are released than breed, but few records are included in county reports.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2835	3388
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	15%

Breeding Bird Survey: Pheasant in Wales, 1994-2023



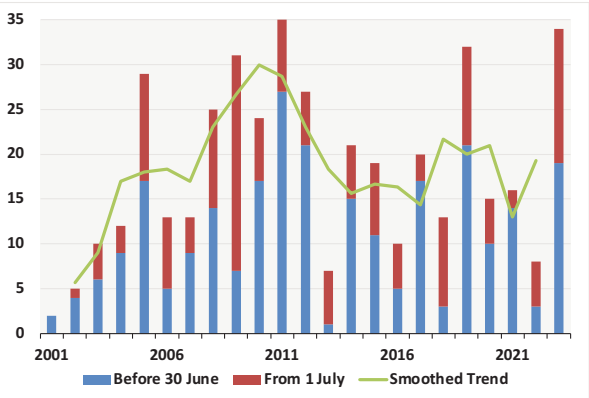
Another sharp reduction, of 19%, in the annual Breeding Bird Survey index, the fourth in a row, brought the smoothed trend to its lowest level since 2002. The latest fall – and fewer large counts reported below – probably reflects a reduction in releases for shooting in summer 2022 owing to reduced availability of eggs and poults following import restrictions from France related to HPAI. The BBS is a coarse indicator of release numbers, since much will depend on overwinter survival, but is currently the only publically available metric on which trends can be judged. The BBS index remains 22% higher than in 1995 and the BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest ever.

Counts >100. RADNOR: >100 at Esgairdraenllwyn on 22 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 210 at Berriew on 28 Aug.; >100 at Llandinam on 21 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 120 at Cynwyd on 28 July; 121 at Pennal on 7 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Llanddyfnan on 27 Jan.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* SOFLIAR

Rare and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; uncommon passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

Quail: all records 2001-23



A minimum of 34 made it one of the best years this century. PEMBROKE: Camrose on 2 July; up to two at Moylgrove on 2-29 July; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 29 May; two at Mwnt on 14 June; RADNOR: two in upper Claerwen valley and one at Evanjobb in June; Evancoyd in Aug.; MONTGOMERY: Glaslyn NR on 21 June; Beacon Ring hillfort on 4 July; at least two on Heldre Hill on 17 and 21 July; CAERNARFON: Llyn Cowlyd on 9 June; ANGLESEY: Newborough Warren on 22 May; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 25 May and 7-14 June; Aberffraw on 31 May and 1 June; Gadfa on 15-20 June; DENBIGH: Gors Dopiog on 25-26 May; Bryn Du, North Berwyn, on 2 June; Pulford Brook on 9 and 17-18 June; FLINT: Sealand on 10 May; Pen-y-cefn on 20 and 29 June.

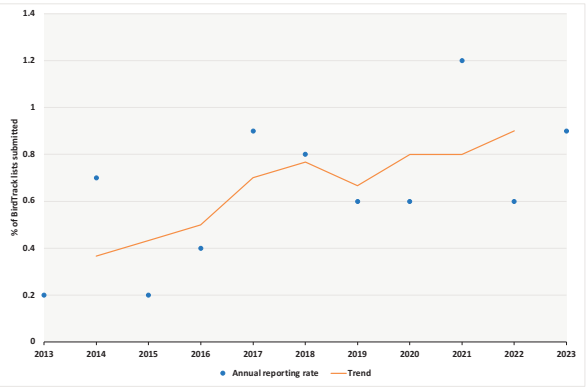
2020 GWENT: at least two singing males near Grosmont between 25 June and 22 July; Llangybi on 7-18 July; sound recorded at night over Tranch, near Pontypool, on 28 July. These records took the Welsh total for the year to 15.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Introduced (Category C) and localised (1400 breeding pairs). Most sightings are of birds released for shooting, and there are few records of breeding.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	191	239
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Red-legged Partridge in Wales 2013-23



Encounters by BirdTrack users were higher than in the previous year and the three-year mean is more than double that during 2013-15. The number of counts greater than 10 birds was the second highest on record, including a very large release in Flintshire.

Largest counts. RADNOR: >60 at Esgairdraenllwyn on 22 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 50 at Berriew on 25 Aug.; >100 above Mochdre on 28 Oct. and near Llandinam on 21 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 40 at Llanddyfnan on 27 Jan.; FLINT: *c.*500 at Coed Llangwyfan on 15 Oct.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* TROELLWR MAWR

Localised summer visitor (280 males in 2004, now probably >500), mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	71	94
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Nightjars are probably under-recorded, as birders tend to visit a small number of traditional sites. Until a new national survey, potentially in 2025, population trends are not accurately known. One on Skokholm, PEMBROKE, on 24 June was the island's first since 1993 and only the second since 1979, prior to which they occurred more regularly, while an October record on neighbouring Skomer was one of the latest ever in Wales.

Breeding sites, max. per site unless stated. GWENT: three at Blaenavon; singles at four sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 5-6 at Llanwonno; four at Blaen Gwrangon; 2-3 at Penmoelallt; two at seven sites and singles at three others; GOWER: eight at Moel Tonmawr; seven at Foel Fynyddau; five at Nant-craig-yr-aber; four at Mynydd Dinas; 1-2 at 11 other sites; four 1CY ringed at Oxwich Marsh in Aug. suggested successful breeding at nearby Cefn Bryn; CARMARTHEN: four at Llyn Llech Owain CP; 1-2 at six other sites; PEMBROKE: three at Tŷ-rhyg, Pantmaenog Forest and Plumstone Mountain; CEREDIGION: five at Cross Inn Forest; four at Mynydd Du; three at Cors Fochno; 1-2 at three other sites; RADNOR: Bwlch y Sarnau; BRECON: three at Talybont Res.; two at Penwyllt; singles at eight other sites; MONTGOMERY: singles at four sites; MEIRIONNYDD: six at Ceunant Llennyrch, three at Craig Gyfynys and 1-2 at five other sites; CAERNARFON: three above Brynrefail; two at Cors Bodgynydd; singles at Llyn Crafnant, Clwt-y-bont and Glyn Rhonwy; DENBIGH: 10 in Coed Llandgela; three in Coed Nantyr; singles at seven sites; FLINT: pair on Nercwys Mouyntain.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (none in ANGLESEY)

Nightjar	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**28 April**	**Ebbw Vale**	no autumn records	
E.GLAMORGAN	14 May	Penmoelallt & Llanwonno	9 Aug.	Aberaman
GOWER	29 April	Margam Forest	3 Sept.	Oxwich Marsh
CARMARTHEN	13 May	Llyn Llech Owain CP	15 Aug.	Llyn Llech Owain CP
PEMBROKE	3 June	Tŷ-rhyg	**10 Oct.**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	13 May	Cors Fochno	no autumn records	
BRECON	28 May	Mynydd Wysg	8 Aug.	Llysdinam
RADNOR	20 May	Radnor Forest	12 Aug.	Radnor Forest
MONTGOMERY	16 May	Bwlchyllan	11 Aug.	Cefn Coch
MEIRIONNYDD	17 May	Penrhyndeudraeth	16 Aug.	NWWT Gwaith Powdwr
CAERNARFON	18 May	Cors Bodgynydd	19 Aug.	Bardsey
DENBIGH	19 May	Llyn Brân	8 Aug.	Bettisfield Moss
FLINT	31 May	Nercwys Mountain	6 July	Nercwys Mountain

2022 DENBIGH: 26 males in Clocaenog Forest; from 14 nests found in the area, 20 young fledged (1.43/nest).

2020 GWENT: first, at Beacon Hill, on 6 May was the earliest in Wales that year; amendment, records from 17 sites, inc. five at Twmbarlwm and four at Pencroesoped.

Alpine Swift (Steve Culley)

ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba* GWENNOL DDU'R ALPAU

Scarce visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 49 previous records.

The 11 accepted by the WBRC almost doubles the number of records this century. It included two records of two together; the only previous records involving two birds were in 1908 and 1934. There were also

reports of several others that were not submitted to the WBRC.

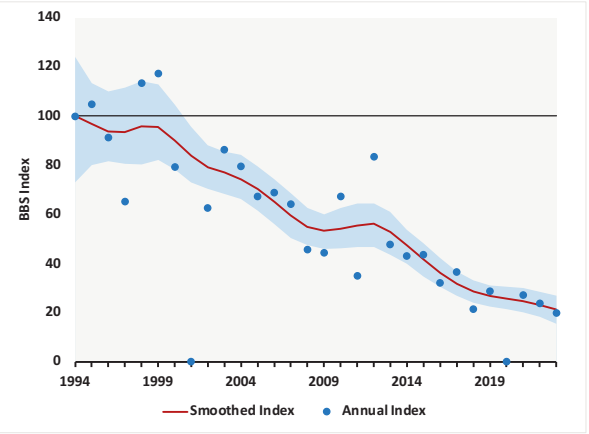
E.GLAMORGAN: Penarth on 18 March and probably same at Lamby Lake on 19th; Porthcawl on 20 March; two at Whitchurch, Cardiff, on 2 April; PEMBROKE: St Davids on 4 May; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 22 March; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 1 April and another on 18th; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: Llandudno Junction on 28-29 March joined by a second on 30th until 1 April; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 13 April was same individual seen on Bardsey on 18th based on sooty plumage; FLINT: Talacre/Gronant on 22-29 March, presumed same as RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 30th.

SWIFT *Apus apus* GWENNOL DDU

Localised and declining summer visitor (4100 pairs). Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	1509	1838
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

Breeding Bird Survey: Swift in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey annual index saw a further 16% fall below its 2022 value, to another record low of 76% below the 1995 baseline. The three-year BirdTrack reporting rate was 20% below that in 2013-15. In addition to breeding records below, contributors to the RSPB's Swiftmapper project (**swiftmapper.org.uk**) recorded a minimum 270 nests at 162 sites (*cf*. 210 nests at 139 sites in 2022). Of these, 139 sites used a hole in a roof or wall and 10 were nestboxes. The sites with the greatest number of occupied nests were at Llanycefen, PEMBROKE, and Llandysul, CEREDIGION, each of which hosted seven pairs in holes in buildings. The largest group of occupied boxes was six (of 10 available) in Cowbridge, E.GLAMORGAN. The greatest concentrations of records were again in the GWENT valleys.

Breeding records in county reports, BirdTrack and eBird. GWENT: probably bred in Pengam, Monmouth, Blaenavon and Grosmont; E.GLAMORGAN: bred in Penarth, probably in Roath, Aberkenfig, Maesteg and Mountain Ash; GOWER: 2 AON at Briton Ferry, also bred at Pontrhydfen and Tonna, and probably in five other communities, inc. up to 10 pairs in Neath; CARMARTHEN: bred at Caio and National Botanic Garden; PEMBROKE: bred at Yet-y-Gors campsite and Carew Mill, and probably at three other sites; CEREDIGION: 25 locations., inc. 5-6 at a house in Pontrhydygroes; RADNOR: probably bred in Felindre and Heyope; BRECON: 15 AON at Middle Gaer Farm, Cwmdu; 5 AON at Pennorth Chapel; 2+ AON at Nythfa Lodge, Brecon; bred at Bronllys and Troedyrharn Farm, Talgarth; probably/possibly bred at eight other settlements; MONTGOMERY: probably bred in Montgomery; MEIRIONNYDD: 2 AON in Corris Uchaf and bred at seven other sites; CAERNARFON: 8 AON in Bethesda; 6 AON in Bangor; 5 AON in Llanfairfechan; 3-5 AON in Penmachno; 3+ AON in Penmaenmawr and Trefriw; 1-2 AON in nine villages and possibly bred in four others; ANGLESEY: 13 AON in Menai Bridge; 3 AON in Holyhead; 1 AON in Amlwch; DENBIGH: bred in Llanfair TH, Brynteg and Nannerch (nest still occupied on 26 Aug.), and probably in Llanrwst, Llanfair DC and Derwen; FLINT: probably bred in Mold.

For a second consecutive year there were fewer than half a dozen counts of ≥80, the threshold long used

in the *Welsh Bird Report*. CEREDIGION: 113 over Cors Fochno on 9 July; MONTGOMERY: 150 south over Llanymynech Hill in 20 minutes on 4 Aug.; ANGLESEY: >100 fed on flying ants at Rhoscolyn on 7 July; FLINT: >150 at Moel Dywyll on 12 June; 200 at Connah's Quay NR on 27 June.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Swift	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	20 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve	1 Sept.	Abergavenny
E.GLAMORGAN	21 April	Treharris	3 Sept.	Whitchurch
GOWER	26 April	Dunvant	16 Sept.	Swansea Vale
CARMARTHEN	28 April	Penclacwydd	16 Sept.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	17 April	Aber Rhigian & Dowrog	**17 Sept.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	20 April	Bow Street	8 Sept.	Blaensaith
BRECON	28 April	Llangorse Lake	13 Aug.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	26 April	Three locations	22 Aug.	Rhayader
MONTGOMERY	28 April	Welshpool	20 Aug.	Berriew
MEIRIONNYDD	27 April	Llanymawddwy	26 Aug.	Croesor Bach
CAERNARFON	29 April	Bethesda	7 Sept.	Uwchmynydd & Bardsey
ANGLESEY	23 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga	3 Sept.	Point Lynas
DENBIGH	25 April	Fenn's Moss	1 Sept.	Rhos-on-Sea
FLINT	**5 April**	**Greenfield Dock**	31 Aug.	Gronant

The first in FLINT was the earliest county record this century, by 10 days (*cf*. 2015).

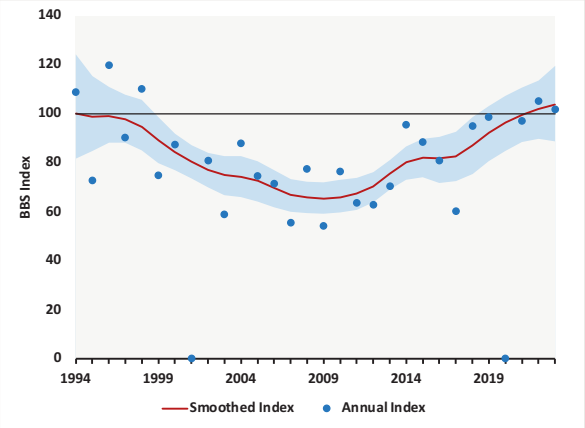
2020 GWENT, additional breeding record: Caerau Park. The first of the year, at Pentre-poeth on 5 April, was the earliest ever.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* COG

Localised summer visitor (1900 breeding 'pairs') but now scarce in lowlands except on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	643	833
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

Breeding Bird Survey: Cuckoo in Wales, 1994-2023



Although there was a marginal drop in the Breeding Bird Survey compared to the previous year, the smoothed index remains 3% above its 1995 value. It is a contrast to the BBS index in England, which reached another new low in 2023, and in Scotland where it has climbed significantly in the last 15 years. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest since 2015 and has changed little in the last decade.

Territorial birds (site max.) unless stated. GWENT: bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve; three at Pwll Du, Blorenge and Cwmyoy, and 1-2 at nine other sites; E.GLAMORGAN:

five at Castell Nos, two at eight sites and singles at 24 others; GOWER: three at Cwmafan, two at Kenfig Hill and Cwm Clydach, and singles at 24 other sites; CARMARTHEN: four at Pal-y-cwrt and RSPB Dinas, three at Allt Rhyd y Groes NNR, Mynydd Pencarreg and Banc Wernwgan, and 1-2 at 11 other sites; PEMBROKE: four at Brynberian, three at Garn Fawr, and 1-2 at *c*.30 other sites; CEREDIGION: four in Cwm Doethie, three at RSPB Ynys-hir and Cross Inn Forest, and 1-2 at 27 other sites; BRECON: three at Llanwrthwl, Craig Cwmdu and Cwmyoy, two at 11 sites and singles at another 40; RADNOR: 33 sites, an increase, inc. three at Gilfach and two at six sites; MONTGOMERY: 20 males at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, four at Llangurig and Garreg Ddu, and 1-2 at 18 other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: five near Llanfachreth and at Arthog, four at Bala, Manod and Croesor, three at Dolgoch Falls, Nantmor, Arenig Fawr and Tanrallt, and 1-2 at 36 other sites; CAERNARFON: six in Nant Ffrancon and Cwm Eigiau, four at Cors Bodgynydd, Nant Gwynant, Llyn y Foel and Llyn Cowlyd, three at Coedty Res., Llanbedr-y-cennin and Carmel, and 1-2 at *c*.70 sites; DENBIGH: six at World's End and Esclusham Mountain, five at Gors Maen Llwyd, three in Ceiriog Forest and 1-2 at 20+ sites; FLINT: three at Penycloddiau and two at several other sites in the Clwydian Hills, singles at seven other sites.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Cuckoo	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**8 April**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**	no autumn records	
E.GLAMORGAN	20 April	Coed Parc y Van, Caerphilly	3 Sept.	Ogmore Vale
GOWER	9 April	Rhyd-y-fro	7 July	Oxwich Burrows
CARMARTHEN	20 April	Llansteffan	no autumn records	
PEMBROKE	**8 April**	**St Brides (found freshly dead)**	17 July	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	9 April	Penrhiwllan	26 July	Cors Caron
BRECON	10 April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl	no autumn records	
RADNOR	16 April	Five locations	10 Aug.	Radnor Forest
MONTGOMERY	17 April	Lake Vyrnwy	10 Sept.	Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	22 April	Llyn Tanygrisiau	no autumn records	
CAERNARFON	19 April	Llanrug	**12 Sept.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	13 May	Benllech & Cemlyn	25 Aug.	Gwalchmai
DENBIGH	22 April	Minera Quarry and World's End	13 July	World's End
FLINT	17 April	Caerwys & Penycloddiau	no autumn records	

The last of the year in MONTGOMERY was the latest record ever, nine days later than one in 2021, and the last in CAERNARFON matched the latest this century, in 2018.

2020 GWENT, amendments: bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), which was also the location of the last, on 5 Sept.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* COLOMEN DDOF

Fairly common resident (41,000 breeding pairs) in towns and on some sea cliffs (Category C). Greatly under-recorded. Wales Green listed.

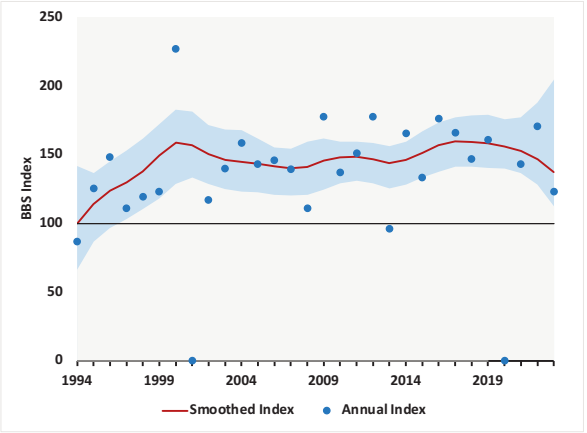
	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	3375	3279
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	16%

The Breeding Bird Survey annual index dipped markedly, by 28% in just one year (although note the wide confidence intervals). Having reached a new high in 2022, the smoothed trend dropped back to 29% above its 1995 value. The BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate was close to a record high in March, occurring in 18% of gardens.

Counts ≥100. GWENT: 100 at Sudbrook on 1 Jan.; 100 in Newport on 5 Feb. and 24 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: up to 225 in Roath Park throughout the year (max. 21 Sept.); >100 at Aberthaw power station on 5 Jan.; 100 in Cathays-Cardiff on 10 May; 100 at Caerphilly Castle on 23 Aug.; 145 in Parc Aberdare on 19 Sept.;

100 in Adamsdown-Cardiff on 24 Sept.; 120 at Gileston on 5 Nov.; GOWER: max. 150 in Brynmill Park in Nov.; >100 in Neath throughout year; PEMBROKE: 150 in Haverfordwest on 26 May; BRECON: 100 at Brecon Town bridge throughout the year; DENBIGH: 100 in Llangollen on 27 Aug.; 150 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 10 Nov. and >100 here on 19 Dec.; FLINT: 110 at Rhyl Marsh Tracks on 30 Aug.; 202 at Brickfield Pond NR on 19 Dec.

Breeding Bird Survey: Feral Pigeon in Wales, 1994-2023

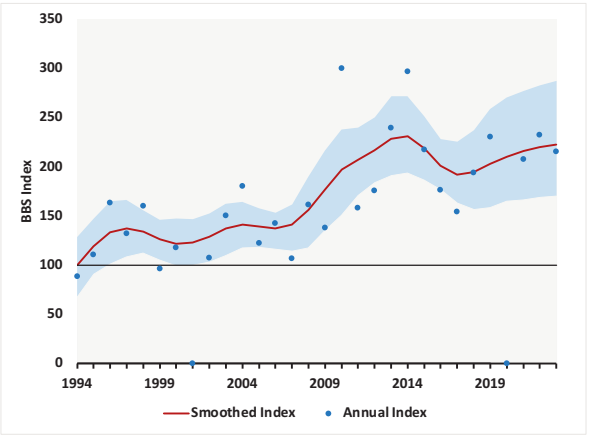


STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* COLOMEN WYLLT

Fairly common resident (21,500 territories), mostly in lowland areas. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1210	1401
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

Breeding Bird Survey: Stock Dove in Wales, 1994-2023



The Stock Dove population has almost made up all of the losses in the last decade, and the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index is now 85% higher than in 1995, although the confidence intervals are wide as it occurs on fewer squares than most BBS species. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest ever for the second consecutive year, bringing the three-year mean to 70% above that of 2013-15. There was some evidence of movements in southeast Wales in the autumn.

Counts ≥25. GWENT: 38 near Osbaston on 28 March and 35 here on 8 Nov.; 45 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14 Oct.; max. 100 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 5 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: >200 at Llangynwyd-Maesteg on 4 April; 40 at Pendoylan Moor on 27 Aug.; 41 at Lavernock Pt on 23 Oct.; 38 at Kenfig NNR on 11 Nov.; GOWER: 44 at Whiteford on 21 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Gupton on 9 Jan.; up to 90 at Castlemartin Corse in Jan./Feb.; 42 at Cosheston Pill on 16 Sept. and 28 here on 5 Dec.; BRECON: 47 at Brecon Enterprise Park on 11 Feb.; 40 on cereal stubble at Gilestone Farm, Talybont-on-Usk, on 26 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 66 at Pennal on 9 Feb. and 32 here on 11 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 34 at Rowen on 29 Dec.; DENBIGH: 30 at Holt on 1 Feb.; FLINT: 32 beside Clwyd est. on 30 July; 60 at Connah's Quay NR in Jan. and 85 here in Dec.

2020 GWENT, additional counts of ≥25 birds: 135 near Redwick on 4 Feb. and 21 here on 20 Oct.; 27 near

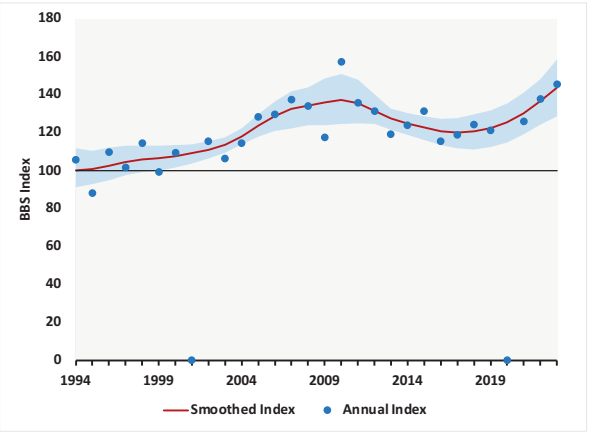
Osbaston on 30 March; 76 at Gwern Ddu on 4 April; *c.*80 at Magor Pill on 15 Sept., 50 here on 1 Oct. and 28 on 19th; 80 at Cold Harbour Pill on 16 Oct.; deletion, the count of 200 in Nov. was incorrect.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* YSGUTHAN

Abundant breeding species (295,000 pairs), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	12298	13078
% of BirdTrack lists	60%	60%

Breeding Bird Survey: Woodpigeon in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached a record high, 36% higher than in 1995. The BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate of 81.7% in April was the highest of any month since 1995, a record broken for the third consecutive year, but the BirdTrack reporting rate has been very stable over the last decade save for 2020 when lockdowns resulted in a suburban bias of records.

Numbers recorded on autumn migration were far lower than in recent years, just 30% of the total in 2022. More than half were on 11 November, including a count of 54,536 in Gwent. Large flocks or counts ≥300. GWENT: 2078 over Newport Wetlands Reserve on 14 Oct., 10,000 here on 22nd, 1720 on 27th and 2000 on 28th and 29th, 1000 on 5 Nov. and 7500 on 11th; 5000 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 28 Oct. and 1650 here on 17 Nov.; 400 at Rogiet CP on 3 Nov.; 54,536 at Portskewett on 11 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 400 at Pendoylan Moors on 25 Aug.; 300 at Dunraven on 16 Oct.; nine counts during 23-31 Oct inc. >3000 at Lavernock Pt on 23rd and 25th, at Leckwith on 29th and *c.*4000 over Hendre Lake on 29th; seven counts during 3-7 Nov., inc. 2850 over East Aberthaw, 3000 over Hendre Lake and 1970 over Gileston on 5th and 1689 over Kenfig NNR on 7th; 3474 over Kenfig NNR on 11 Nov. and 1236 here on 22nd; CARMARTHEN: 300 west over Salem, Llandeilo, on 16 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 2240 over Skomer on 11 Nov.; 1835 over Garn Gelli in an hour on 25 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 1713 over Aberystwyth on 11 Nov.; 2200 over Talybont on 22 Nov.; 650 over Furnace on 25 Nov.; BRECON: 300 on wheat stubble at Gilestone Farm, Talybont-on-Usk, on 26 July; 300 over The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 4 and 8 Nov., 410 here on 14th and 2500 on 17th; 550 roosted in Ty Mawr Wood, Llangasty, on 13 Nov.; flock of 5000 at RSPB Carngafallt on 18 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 1000 over Moel y Garth on 17 Nov.; *c.*10,000 northeast over Llyn Coed-y-dinas on 9 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 400 at Glanwydden on 22 Jan.; 1200 left roost at Coed Benarth on 18 Dec.; DENBIGH: 500 at Cox Wood, Gresford, on 12 Feb.; 300 over Fenn's Moss on 6 Nov.; FLINT: >300 at Pant-y-dulath on 25 Nov.

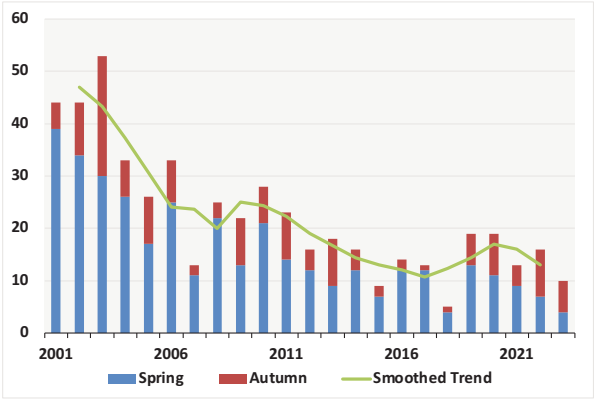
2020 GWENT, additional counts ≥300 birds: 1755 over Pentre-poeth in 1.5 hours on 3 Nov.; 2000 over Blorenge on 4 Nov.; 4370 over Llangybi in one hour on 5 Nov.; amendment, 2000 over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 19 Nov.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* TURTUR

Extinct as a breeding species following a long decline in the late 20th century; uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	16	14
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Turtle Dove: all records 2001-23



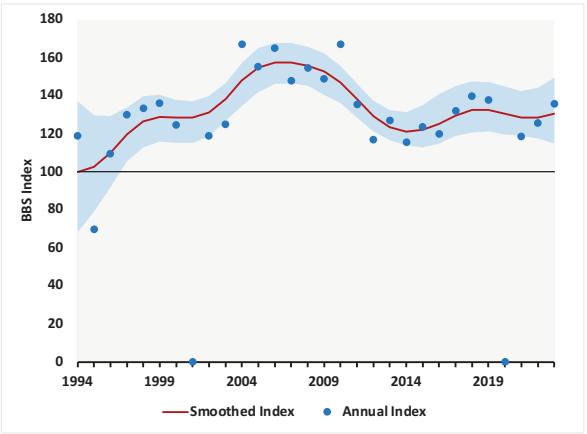
The total of 10, all single birds, was the lowest since 2018. E.GLAMORGAN: Grangemoor Park, Cardiff, on 30 June; Kenfig Pool on 13 Sept.; GOWER: Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 7 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: Pant-yr-Arthro on 9-10 April; PEMBROKE: Dale and Skokholm on 31 May and 6 June; Skomer on 1 June; Broad Haven on 25 Sept.; Rhoscrowther on 9 Oct.; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 26 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: Tywyn on 23 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Silver Bay on 19 May.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* TURTUR DORCHOG

Fairly common resident (87,000 breeding pairs), having first appeared in Wales in 1959. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	3691	3528
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	16%

Breeding Bird Survey: Collared Dove in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey annual index has remained very stable throughout the last decade, albeit lower than in the early years of the century, and similar stability is evident in the BirdTrack reporting rate. The rate in the BTO Garden BirdWatch had fallen 24% since 2006, but in 2023 was its highest since 2017, although the average count remains half the level of the early years of the century.

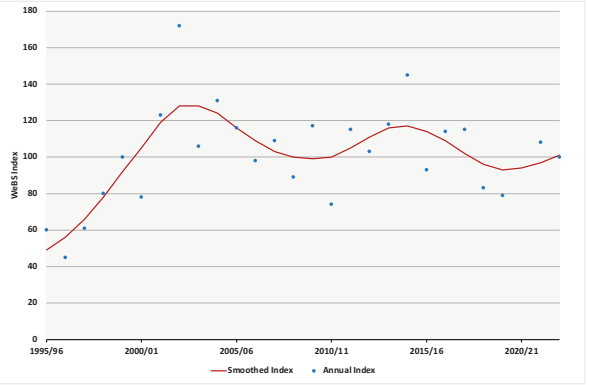
Counts ≥25. GOWER: 40 at Cimla on 30 Sept., 28 at Middleton in late Sep/early Oct.; PEMBROKE: 35 at Bosherston Ponds on 6 May; CAERNARFON: 25 in 1-km square around Bethel on 28 May; FLINT: 63 at Ynys Farm, near Clwyd est., on 4 Feb., 154 on 20 Sept. and counts of 50-104 here and adjacent Brickfield Pond NR during Oct. to Dec.; 34 at Pen y Cefn on 25 Sept.; >60 at Old Warren Farm, Broughton, on 3 Dec.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* RHEGEN DWR

Scarce breeder (215 territories), more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	790	741
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Water Rail in Wales 1995/96-2022/23



Breeding season (April-July) in addition to sites in the table, present unless more certain evidence provided: GWENT: one at Brynmawr Ponds; E.GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at Cwmbach Wetlands and Kenfig NNR; GOWER: probably bred at Kenfig reedbed; PEMBROKE: bred on Skokholm; present at Llangloffan Fen, Marloes Mere and Castlemartin Corse; CEREDIGION: bred at Cors Caron and RSPB Ynys-hir; RADNOR: present at five sites; MONTGOMERY: one at Cors Dyfi; CAERNARFON: one territory at a site on Pen Llŷn; DENBIGH: breeding suspected at Fenn's Moss; one at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: bred at Gronant; pair at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey suggests stability in the population over the last 20 years, although it is unclear how representative the index is. The BirdTrack reporting rate is 41% lower than its level of 2013-15.

Sites with ≥5 Water Rail		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	50*	3	5	1	1	8	1	1	1	52*	10	6
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	17*	23*	16*						2		10	
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	4	2	1			5			1	3	4	5
PEMBROKE	Castlemartin Corse	8	2	2	1	P			2	3	7	1	3
	Skokholm					1	2	2	3	5	5	3	
PEMB/CERE	Teifi Marshes	3	2	2	1		1			1	2	2	5
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	5	3	5	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	6	10
ANGLESEY	RSPB Cors Ddyga	12	6	3	1	8	1		1	1	9	8	5
	RSPB Valley Wetlands	8	2			2				1	2	11	5
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	18*	2	3	1		1			2	4	2	1
FLINT	Gronant	7	2	2	4	3	1	1	2	3	11	2	1

*surveyed using playback response.

Counts ≥5 elsewhere. E.GLAMORGAN: 5* at Cadoxton Ponds on 21 Jan.; GOWER: 5-6 at Kenfig reedbed on 8 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 10* at Freshwater East on 17 Jan.; seven on Skomer on 21 Sept.; six at Llangloffan Fen on 11 Nov.; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: 10* at a site near Glan Conwy in Jan.

2020 GWENT, additional records: five territories at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth). *surveyed using playback response.

Site with ≥5 Water Rail		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	71*	64*	62*	18*	1	1			10*	28*	12*	45*

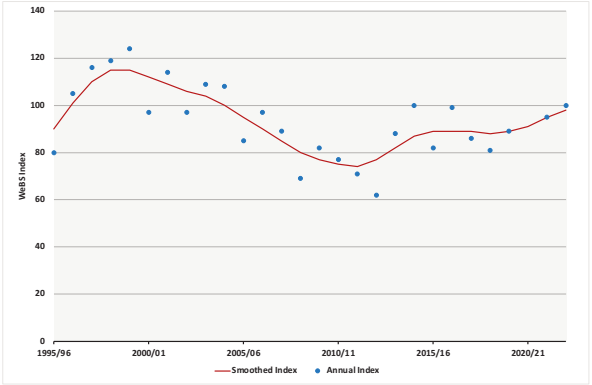
Also, five* at Newport Moorings in Feb. and March.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* IAR DDWR

Fairly common breeding resident (14,500 territories) and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4961	5148
% of BirdTrack lists	23%	23%

Wetland Bird Survey: Moorhen in Wales 1995/96-2022/23



The Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index increased for the fourth consecutive year, to its highest level since 2004/05. No scheme monitors Moorhen breeding abundance in Wales, although the BBS and WBBS trends for the UK both show a decline of 25% since the 1990s. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has been stable for the last decade.

Sites with ≥40 Moorhen		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Mont & Brecon Canal*	21	48	19	14	3	35	13	27	21	39	66	51
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	34	32	35	4		22	25	38	54	18	37	49
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	35	44	31	19	29	31	38	34	25	49	28	19
PEMBROKE	Bosherston Lakes	40	31	30	5	2	2	10	12	6	41	40	31
	Skomer				4	3	5	6	40	20			
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	14	4	9	4	2	6	3	13	48	59	9	3

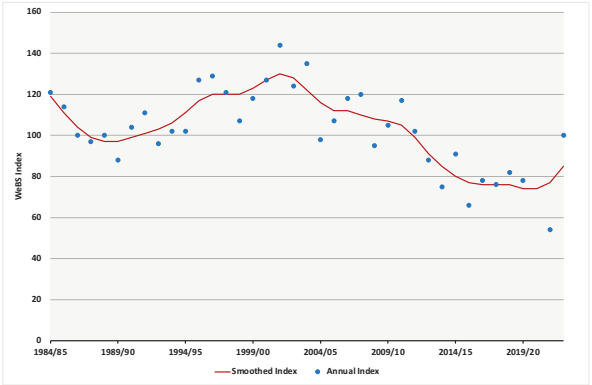
* Old Cwmbran to Pentre Lane and Bettws Lane to M4

COOT *Fulica atra* CWTIAR

Localised breeding resident (1600 pairs) and winter visitor, widespread but declining in many areas. Amber WeBS alert: -27% medium term. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	3768	4176
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	19%

Wetland Bird Survey: Coot in Wales 1984/85-2022/23



An 85% increase on the previous year was the highest Wetland Bird Survey index value for more than a decade. It bucked the recent trend in Wales, and elsewhere in the UK, but is still one-third below its level at the turn of the century. Llyn Alaw, Anglesey, and Llangorse Lake are among the sites with the largest declines, although the average count has doubled at Roath Park lake in the same 10-year period. The only comparable breeding data are from Cardiff, E.GLAMORGAN, where 61 pairs fledged 18 young, an average of 0.3/nest (*cf*. 0.25 in 2022). Although the BirdTrack reporting rate has been stable for the last decade, away from Anglesey Coot is

scarce in western counties, especially as a breeding species: there was only one possible breeding pair in Caernarfonshire (the max. count at any site all year was just two birds), the only proven breeding in CEREDIGION was at Maesllyn Pool and in PEMBROKE at Marloes Mere, Rosemoor and Castlemartin Corse.

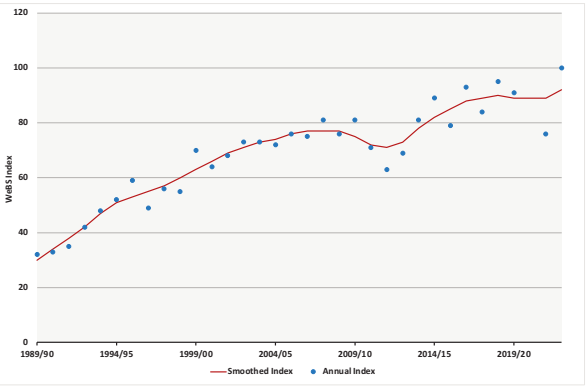
Sites with ≥100 Coot		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Ynys-y-fro Reservoirs	95	56	39	30	26	67	79	101	108	96	89	98
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	463	208	155	49	25	142	212	371	398	272	289	323
	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	162	119	33	15	22	56	96	98	75	101	116	112
	Roath Park Lake	145	103	99	49	83	109	120	280	263	157	196	151
	Lamby Lakes	26	20	32	23			21	49	55	89	121	97
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	419	232	66	50	22	120	102	>300	450	612	709	446
ANGLESEY	Cefni Reservoir	100	35	80	8	P	P	3	95	P	165	14	204
	Llyn Traffwll	107	97	75	32	8	35		104	43	53	78	33

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* GWYACH FACH

Localised breeder (240-640 pairs), scarce in land-locked counties. Winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2889	3082
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	13%

Wetland Bird Survey: Little Grebe in Wales 1989/90-2022/23



Breeding season: GWENT: four broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve, two at Magor Marsh and singles at three other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: single broods at seven sites; GOWER: bred at five sites, inc. 2-3 pairs in Kenfig reedbed; CARMARTHEN: three broods at Penclacwydd and single broods at five sites; PEMBROKE: bred at five sites; CEREDIGION: bred at RSPB Ynys-hir, Maesllyn Pool and Llyn Mynydd Gorddu; RADNOR: bred at min. 14 sites; BRECON: bred at Craig-y-nos CP, Garth Lake and Eligro NR; probably bred at Gludy Lake and possibly at three other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred on Tal-y-llyn; CAERNARFON: bred at The Spinnies and possibly at Llyn Garreg Wen; ANGLESEY: seven territories at RSPB Cors Ddyga, five at RSPB Valley Wetlands; bred at Cefni Res. and possibly at Cors Erddreiniog; DENBIGH: two broods in Llanddulas quarry, single broods at six other sites; FLINT: bred at Connah's Quay NR, Clwyd estuary and Star Crossing Pool.

Sites with ≥20 Little Grebe		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Ynys-y-fro Reservoirs	16	12	8	6	1	4	11	20	18	15	6	8
E.GLAMORGAN	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	30	23	23				22	52	63	59	37	42
	Cardiff Bay	61	43	26	5		1	3	6	11	24	36	38
PEMBROKE	Pembroke Mill Pond	9	12	10				6			30	23	13
BRECON	Talybont Reservoir	21	7	1			2	3	9	14	14	18	22
MEIRIONNYDD	Tal-y-llyn	14	6	7	1		2	3	9	23	14	17	10
ANGLESEY	Cefni Reservoir	30	20	10	4		P	3	18	P	15	10	8
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	25	6	9	10	5	7	20	26	31	25	13	9
FLINT	Shotwick Lake	25	17	19	4	5	1	11	42	45	28	33	18

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index reached a record high, as did the smoothed trend. The value is three times higher than the baseline year of 1989/90. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest ever.

Counts ≥20 elsewhere. E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Hamadryad Park-Cardiff on 22 Jan.; RADNOR: 24 at Hindwell Pool in autumn.

2020 GWENT, additional records: 16 broods at eight sites, inc. six at Llanwern steelworks.

Site with ≥10 Little Grebe		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Ynys-y-fro Reservoirs	15	13	12	5	4	3	9	11	15	12	12	10

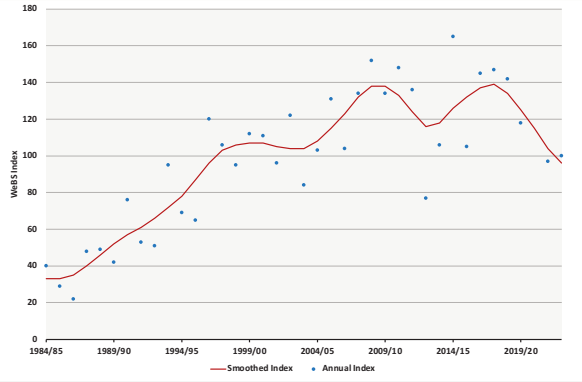
Also, 10 at Tredegar House Lake on 18 Oct.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Localised breeding species (270 pairs). More coastal in winter and recorded on passage from several counties. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2220	2524
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	10%

Wetland Bird Survey: Great Crested Grebein Wales 1984/85-2022/23



Breeding, single broods unless stated. GWENT: single broods at four sites; E.GLAMORGAN: nine broods and 3 AON in Cardiff Bay on 15 July, five nests on Lisvane Res., two broods at Cosmeston lakes CP and R.Ely at Leckwith, and single brood/nest at three other sites; GOWER: Eglwys Nunydd Res., Fendrod Lake and Lliw Res.; CARMARTHEN: two broods at Lliedi Res. and singles at Penclacwydd, Sandy WP and Ashpits Pond; BRECON: bred at Talybont Res., Llangorse Lake and Beacons Res., and possibly at Usk Res. and Crai Res.; RADNOR: bred at three sites; MONTGOMERY: brood at Llyn Coed-y-dinas; nested on Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: bred on Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: bred on Llyn Idwal and Llyn Eigiau (378m), and possibly on Llyn y Gadair, Llyn Ogwen and Llyn Elsi; ANGLESEY: 14 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands; two pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: single nests at five sites, inc. Llyn Brenig where two small young were present on 26

Sites with ≥20 Great Crested Grebe		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay*	14	12	36	64	20	15	28	23	20	11	19	5
	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	6	13	20	23	28	31	28	28	11	10	6	4
GOWER	Baglan Bay	6	25								6	47	1
	Burry Inlet – south	3	3	9	6	1	1	2	21	28	42	3	6
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan/Conwy Bay	52	130	123	30	6	28	21	31	126	60	33	71
	Llandudno Bay	6	28	65	16					1	1	4	7
	Little Orme-Rhos Pt	45	16	16	2			2	1	8	15	4	21
ANGLESEY	Benllech	215	108	26								5	93
	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	9	8	3			2	2	12	46	80	35	16
	RSPB Valley Wetlands	1	7	14	13	14	23		12	12	3		5
DENBIGH	Rhos Pt-Pensarn	116	120	25	17				2	P	15	15	40

*some counts include Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve.

Sept.; FLINT: bred at Llyn Helyg and Llyn Cyfynwy.

Non-breeding: another relatively poor year for numbers, the Wetland Bird Survey index having now fallen by one-third since the 2008/09 peak and returned to levels last recorded in 1996/97. Numbers have also fallen in England and Scotland, the latter by half, but over a longer period than in Wales. Counts are down at all the most important sites, including Traeth Lafan, Swansea Bay and Colwyn Bay. In CEREDIGION, for example, the only records were singles at four sites and a max. four off the mouth of the Dyfi. The BirdTrack reporting rate has, in contrast, changed little through the last 10 years.

Counts ≥20 additional to table on p.62. GOWER: 51 in Oxwich Bay on 14 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 22 off Amroth on 26 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 in Dwyryd est. on 22 Jan.; 35 off Harlech on 1 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 24 in Holyhead harbour on 1 Feb.; 27 off Traeth Coch on 23 Jan.

2020 GWENT, additional records:

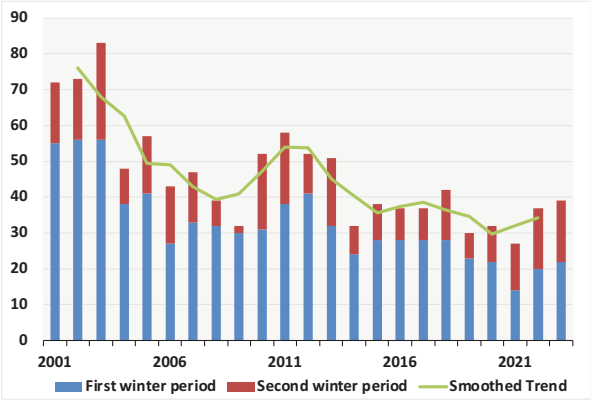
Site with ≥20 Great Crested Grebe		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Llandegfedd Res.	10	15	14				72			18	10	5

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG

Local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	232	191
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Slavonian Grebe: site max. in each season, 2001-23



The long-term decline may have stabilised, though only at two sites in North Wales do birds remain through the winter.

Records additional to the table, singles unless stated, in the first winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR on 19 Jan.; GOWER: two at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 15 Jan., one until 18 April; MEIRIONNYDD: off Artro est. on 16 Jan. and two here on 30th; CAERNARFON: two off Borth-y-gest on 2 and 7 Jan.; Great Orme on 8 and 18 Feb., and 18 March; ANGLESEY: Beaumaris on 21 Jan.; two at Benllech on 30 Jan.; DENBIGH: Aled Isaf Res. on 15 Jan.

Slavonian Grebe: site maxima		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER	Burry Inlet	1	2	1					2
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	3	5	2	3		1	4	3
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	3	5	4	3		2	4	6

Second winter period. CARMARTHEN: Llyn Pencarreg on 20-28 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: two off Harlech on 1 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Criccieth on 28 Sept.; four off Rhos Pt on 15 Nov.; Traeth Crugan on 21 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Benllech on 13-15 Nov.; Church Island-Menai Strait on 17 Dec.; DENBIGH: Llanddulas on 23 Nov. and two here on 18 Dec.

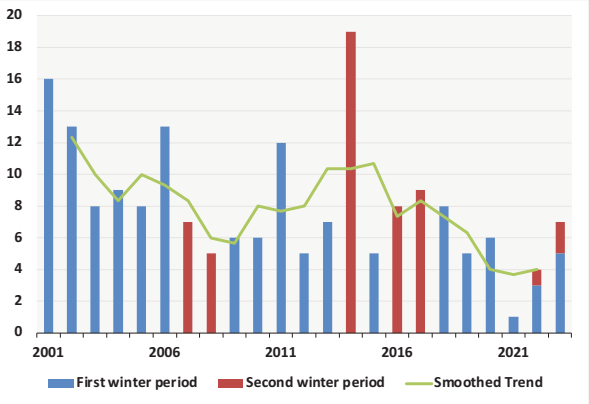
BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* GWYACH YDDFDDU

Local, but declining, winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Formerly bred on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	52	9
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A slight increase in numbers on the previous couple of years, but the long-term trend remains downward. PEMBROKE: Pwll Trefeiddan on 20 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: Llyn Trawsfynydd on 27 May; three off Harlech on 1 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Borth-y-gest on 2 and 21 Jan.; three at Morfa Madryn on 7 March; Aber Ogwen on 1 Dec.

Black-necked Grebe: site max. in each season, 2001-23



STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* RHEDWR Y MOELYDD

Scarce vagrant from Europe. WBRC: 50 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 22 April; PEMBROKE: St Davids airfield on 10 April.

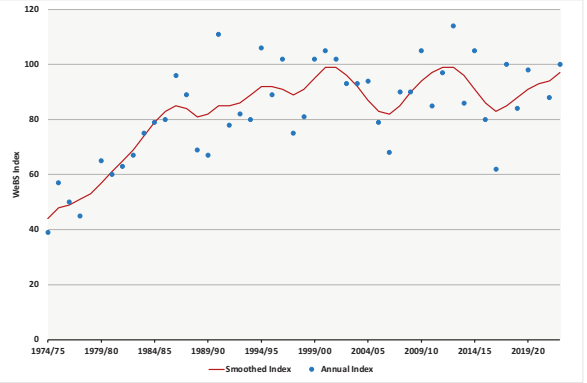
Oystercatcher (Gabriel Goodsell)

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* PIODEN FOR

Localised breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. 35% decline on non-estuarine sites (2006/07-2015/16). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	5191	5426
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	22%

Wetland Bird Survey: Oystercatcher in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



From 114 breeding pairs monitored, 39 fledged (0.34/nest): GWENT: four pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve (0.0); GOWER/CARMARTHEN: pair nested on Loughor est.; PEMBROKE: 59 pairs on Skomer; 25 pairs on Ramsey; bred at five other sites and possibly at St Brides and St Govan's Head; CEREDIGION: four pairs fledged two at Aberporth (0.5); three pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir; bred at six other sites; BRECON: brood at Llangorse Lake and on R.Usk at Scethrog, and probably bred on R.Wye at Ffordd Fawr; MONTGOMERY: bred at Dolydd Hafren; MEIRIONNYDD: 3-4 territories on Artro est.; two territories at Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: 78 pairs on Bardsey from which min. 13 fledged (0.17); five fledged from three broods at Morfa Madryn (1.67); single broods on Glaslyn Marshes and Rhos breakwater; nested at Porthdinllaen; ANGLESEY: 12 AON on the Inland Sea (0.0); 10 AON at a west Anglesey site; 9 AON on The Skerries; seven pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands; five pairs at Cemlyn fledged min. three (0.6); two pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga fledged two young (1.0); 2 AON on a rooftop in Caernarfon; 1 AON at Afonwen; also bred at RSPB South Stack and Tyddyn Isaf caravan park; DENBIGH: 4 AON at RSPB Conwy (one possibly a re-lay); single broods at Llyn Brenig and

Sites with ≥1000 Oystercatcher		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER	Whiteford	300	320	505	230	700	1000		2500	4000	2300	650	5000
	Wernffrwd	1100	1000	511		1	1	378	1560	340	1100		4000
	Crofty/Morfa Bacas	1000	864	718	200	1415	1405	1935	3192	2054	2700	800	2500
	Llanrhidian Marsh	3000	89							275	1		100
	Berthlwyd	54	43	31	38		1405	1935	15		6	23	740
	R.Neath/Crymlyn	1300	1179	837	350	930		160	581	1000	800	264	600
CARMARTHEN	Cefn Padrig	602	1100	94									1200
	Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	1150	1075	302	2200	400	P	959	2000	1000	1510	P	
	Machynys	1200	2100	250				518					33
	Penclacwydd	1660	770	679	372		2	60	700	250	5	P	20
	Morfa Bacas	405		57	P	1415	1405	33	3192	2500	74	19	81
	Llanelli North Dock	2	204	82				72		1500			
	Gwendraeth estuary	2511	800	1500						7250	7008	7008	5094
	Tywi estuary	808	1000	924	10	12				215	112	77	133
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	1325	803	172	20	80	10	100	200	1081	950	883	1583
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	4237	5645	1400	200	100	576	1144	3209	3923	5193	3708	5630
FLINT	Gronant	720	300	47	51	6	6	45	3000	308	660	450	750
	Point of Ayr	8013	3014	1260	1500	500	450	10	2000	3000	7000	7500	4000
	Ffynnongroyw	2000	1250	1300	1000	1000	1500	1100	2000	1500	700	600	1500
	Walwen	3000	2335	1537	624	575	398	607	3124	2490	3725	4830	4330
	CQNR/Oakenholt	120	100	31	75	80	15	23	810	400	1500	600	150

Clwyd est.; FLINT: 6 AON fledged 14 young at RSPB Pt of Ayr (2.33); 5 AON at Gronant; pair bred at Connah's Quay NR and probably bred near Garden City.

Non-breeding (see table and chart on p.65): a further decline in the Burry Inlet is almost entirely offset by numbers in Carmarthen Bay, where the peak Wetland Bird Survey for 2022/23 reached a new high of 14,150, second only to the Dee estuary. The smoothed WeBS index stands 120% above its value in the baseline year of 1974/75. The three-year average BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen 24% since 2013-15.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus* HIRGOES ADEINDDU
Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 23 previous records.

Eleven birds in two years represent 38% of the Welsh total since 1793. GOWER/CARMARTHEN: male and female on Loughor est. on 23 April; CARMARTHEN: two males and female at Penclacwydd on 28-29 April; DENBIGH/FLINT: two visited both banks of Clwyd est. on 25 April; FLINT: Talacre on 3-4 May.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* CAMBIG
Breeds in Gwent and North Wales, elsewhere a scarce visitor. RBBP: 52 pairs at three sites in 2022. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	607	725
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

Numbers and breeding success on the Gwent Levels have fallen markedly and it is suspected that HPAI affected the largest population, on the Dee estuary. The breeding attempt on Anglesey was the first for the island, and those at Gronant were the first in Liverpool Bay, although none was successful. Records from these additional sites and from around 15 others resulted in the highest ever BirdTrack reporting rate, which has doubled since 2013-15.

Breeding: 57 AON but only seven fledged (0.12), all at one site. GWENT: 15 AON at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) but no young fledged; ANGLESEY: pair at Cemlyn hatched four young but none fledged; FLINT: 35 pairs at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (of 70 pairs across the whole site) but no young fledged; seven fledged from four pairs at Connah's Quay NR; 2 AON on saltmarsh at Gronant but no young fledged.

Avocet: site maxima		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	13	25	61	44	34	33	1	5	19		35	10
FLINT	CQNR/Oakenholt Marsh	1	1	4	14	12	19	39	14	7	5	1	1

Other records, singles unless stated. GWENT: six at Peterstone Sluice on 3 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Rhaslas Pond on 18 April; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 1 Jan., two here on 6 Aug. and one on 12th; two at Kidwelly Quay on 17 Jan., and singles on 29 Jan., 21-22 Oct. and 6 Dec.; PEMBROKE: two on R.Cleddau at Slebech on 22 May; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 8 April, and 21 and 24 Oct.; New Quay on 3 May; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 1 Jan.; RADNOR: Llowes on 16 April; ANGLESEY: four at Malltraeth Cob on 4 April and at Moel-y-don on 9th; DENBIGH: two on Clwyd est. on 3-5 May and again on 12th; two at RSPB Conwy on 3 June; FLINT: max. 186 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, but highest count specifically from Flintshire was 90 on 28 March; two at Talacre on 12-13 May; eight at Mostyn Dock on 2 Sept.

Ringing. FLINT: one at Connah's Quay NR on 21 Oct. had been ringed as a chick at Conder Green, north Lancashire, in July.

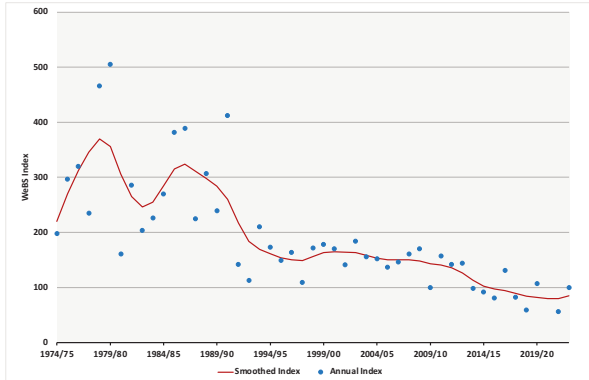
2020 GWENT: none fledged from 17 breeding pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff).

Grey Plovers and Knot (Neil Eccleston)

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* CWTIAD LLWYD
Localised winter visitor to Welsh estuaries, and spring and autumn migrant. Red WeBS alert: -57% long term and amber (-34%) short term. 90% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	376	342
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Grey Plover in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



The Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index shows no sign of recovery, being 74% below its level in 1986/87 although, similar to the BirdTrack reporting rate, the last 10 years have been more stable. The number of sites holding ≥40 has more than halved in just 10 years. The February count at Traeth Melynog was the highest at the site since January 2004.

On the Burry Inlet SPA, red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long (-75%) and medium term (61%), and counts have continued to fall since. On the Dee estuary SPA, an amber WeBS alert (-37%) has been issued for the long-term.

Sites with ≥40 Grey Plover		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	60	91	27	34	2	10	1	1	2		80	7
	St Brides	40	93	50	16	1					3		6
	Calidcot Pill	64	33	1	10							18	11
GOWER	Burry Inlet – south	30	6	40	48	5	2				20	4	27
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	73	133	49			1			1	8	75	62
	Traeth Melynog	88	>200	31								88	9
FLINT	Point of Ayr	24	39	20	10	3	2	P	4	10	37	50	9
	Gronant	2	47	6					1		46	42	15

Counts ≥40 elsewhere. GWENT: 80 at St Pierre Pill on 14 March; CARMARTHEN: 41 at Tywyn Pt on 15 Jan.; CAERNARFON: >80 at Dinas Dinlle on 14 March.

2020 GWENT, amendment and additional records:

Sites with ≥40 Grey Plover		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Undy foreshore	29	28							2	62	1	43
	Newport Wetlands	53	45	11	1			7	1	16	78	20	19
	Peterstone Wentlooge	10	10	9			1			1	75	22	46

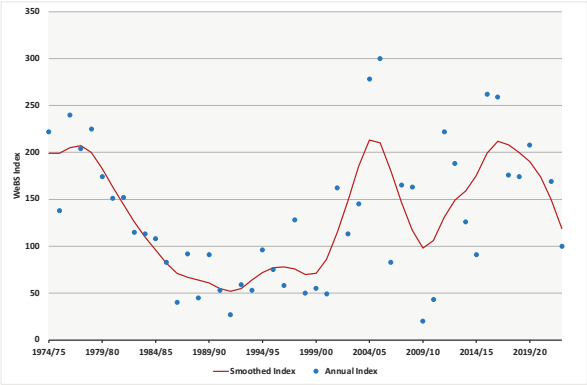
Also 54 at Cold Harbour Pill on 16 Nov.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* CWTIAD AUR

Declining breeding species (36 pairs in 2008), found chiefly on upland plateaux in mid and eastern Wales. Localised in winter, usually in large flocks. Amber WeBS alert: -39% medium term (but +76% long term). Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	459	474
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Wetland Bird Survey: Golden Plover in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Breeding: up to 15 territories (*cf*. seven in 2022). CARMARTHEN: two territories at Garreg Lwyd in April and one in May, breeding suspected but not proven; two at Tair Carn on 23 June; BRECON: present at Mynydd Llangatwg and on blanket bog in Black Mountains; RADNOR: seven territories in the Elenydd; MONTGOMERY: male held territory at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; CAERNARFON: probably bred on peatland undergoing restoration at Blaen-y-coed, Migneint; DENBIGH: probably bred on Carnedd y Filiast, Migneint.

Non-breeding: a poor year by recent standards, judged by the Wetland Bird Survey, but close to the long-term average. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been fairly stable for the last decade.

Sites with ≥400 Golden Plover		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	Sker area	400	149	67	23	450	500	500
GOWER	Wernffrwd to Weobley	835	400		1	700	700	2000
CARMARTHEN	Gwendraeth estuary	1000	3000			500	500	250
	Taf estuary	2500	4000			200	1000	2000
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	1500	1800	800	1	750	1500	1650
	Castlemartin Corse	800	700	500		220	50	600
CEREDIGION	Llansantffraed area		400	400		640	920	1200
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	108	280	620	8	120	200	P
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	100						30
CAERNARFON	Foryd/Morfa Dinlle	940	2	1020	21	850	3000	18
ANGLESEY	Aberffraw/Llyn Coron	2500	500	500		670		
	Cemlyn	350	600	250	226	1200	200	>100
	Cefni est./ Malltraeth	1000	200		135	500	350	400

Other winter/passage flocks ≥400 in coastal counties. PEMBROKE: 500 at Trefeiddan on 21 Jan.; 1500 at Marloes Mere on 31 Jan. and 500 at nearby Trehills on 4 March; 1000 at Carn Ingli on 26 March; 500 at Treffynnon on 28 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 510 over Llandysul in early April.

Inland sites with ≥70 Golden Plover		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	Mynydd Cefn-y-gyngon		80				73		80
BRECON	Mynydd Illtyd	16	116	173	106	16	381	95	29
	Llandefalle Hill	17	14				>100		20
MONTGOMERY	Pant y Godro						300	1500	70

Other inland counts ≥70. CARMARTHEN: 75 at Tair Carn on 1 April; 70 on Garreg Lwyd on 11 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 510 near Glynarthen on 1 April; BRECON: >100 at Banc y Celyn on 15 Oct.; RADNOR: >100 on Penygarreg on 18 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 300 at Heldre Hill on 16 March and 80 here on 14 Oct.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* CORGWTIAD AUR Y MÔR TAWEL

Extremely rare vagrant from northeast Russia and Alaska. BBRC: two previous records.

GOWER/CARMARTHEN: Loughor est. on 13 June. It was the first record for both counties, although there was a Pacific/American Golden Plover in Carmarthenshire in 1987.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* CORGWTIAD AUR AMERICA

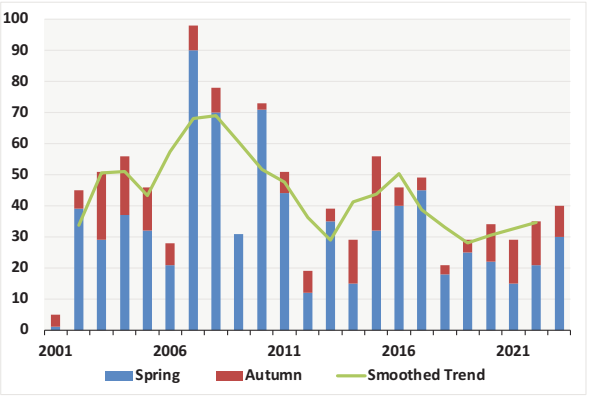
Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 25 previous records.

PEMBROKE: adult on Skokholm on 17-22 and 25-28 July; 1CY at St Govan's Head on 8 Oct.; adult on Gann est. on 15-30 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 23 July; ANGLESEY: adult at Cemlyn on 9-12 May.

DOTTEREL *Eudromias morinellus* HUTAN Y MYNYDD

Uncommon passage migrant in spring and autumn; nested sporadically until the 1970s, and suspected occasionally since. RBBP: one occupied territory in 2019. Wales Amber listed.

Dotterel: all records, 2001-23



Spring records: 30 at 12 sites (*cf*. 21 at seven sites in 2022). CARMARTHEN: two on Garreg Lwyd on 7 May; Pâl y Cwrt on 8 May; PEMBROKE: Marloes Mere on 20 April; two on Dale airfield on 22 April; CEREDIGION: one heard over Llangwyryfon on 25 April; five on Pumlumon on 7 May and two here on 8th; BRECON: two on Y Grib, Black Mountains, on 21 May; CAERNARFON: two caught and ringed on Bardsey on 15 April, present until 16th; female on Great Orme on 25-27 April; in Y Carneddau, two on Foel Fras on 4 May and 10 between Carnedd Llewelyn and Yr Elen on 7th; ANGLESEY: RSPB South

Stack on 25-26 April.

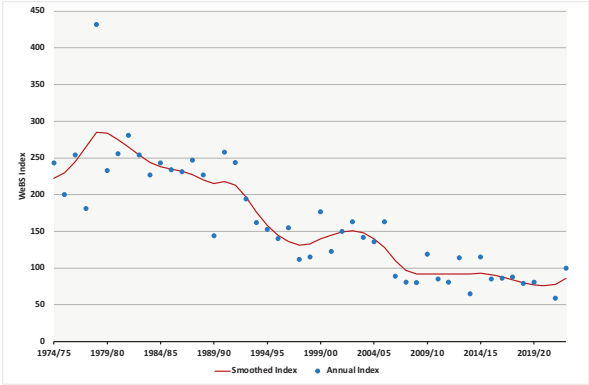
In autumn, 10 at six sites (*cf*. 13 at five sites in 2022). CARMARTHEN: two on Garreg Lwyd on 9 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. on 17-20 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: three west of Dyfnant Forest on 16 Nov., only the third Welsh record in that month; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 23 Sept.; two at Fort Belan on 29 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Silver Bay on 7-8 Sept.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* CWTIAD TORCHOG

Scarce breeder (254 pairs in 2007, but records suggest a decline since). Passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Red WeBS alert: -62% long-term. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1396	1374
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	5%

Wetland Bird Survey: Ringed Plover in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Breeding: *c*.50 pairs confirmed and at least another eight probably or possibly bred (*cf*. 47 and 10 in 2022, not including the Cardigan Bay survey reported below). From 21 pairs where broods were monitored, 23 fledged (1.1). GWENT: pair fledged one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); E.GLAMORGAN: two pairs bred at Sker; GOWER: two pairs bred at Whiteford, singles at Baglan Bay, Port Talbot steelworks, Tawe est. and Port Eynon Pt, and probably bred at Margam Landfill; CARMARTHEN: possibly bred at Pembrey Burrows; PEMBROKE: two pairs fledged at least three on Castlemartin Range, the first successful breeding in the county since 2009; CEREDIGION: seven pairs bred at Ynyslas; possibly bred at Tanybwlch; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-2 pairs at Penllyn; CAERNARFON: 4 AON at Morfa Madryn/Glan-y-Môr Elias, at least one fledged; three pairs at Porth Neigwl fledged at least two; pair probably fledged three at Aberdaron; pair fledged one on Bardsey; nested at Afon Wen and probably at Plas-yn-Rhiw; ANGLESEY: three pairs fledged four at Cemlyn; also bred at

Sites with ≥100 Ringed Plover		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	19	20	7	20	70	50	10	48	200			
E.GLAMORGAN	Newton beach	66	43	35	22	17			39	30	100	70	26
GOWER	Burry Inlet – south	100	10	20	70	210	12	20	150	285	220	50	85
	Neath est./Crymlyn	30	90	37	20	3	1	4		150	150	127	131
CARMARTHEN	Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	10	28					8	200	75	9		41
	Pembrey harbour	103		6	22	5	6	6	246	218	45	44	
PEMBROKE	Dale airfield					12	20		43	120	10		
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	40	23	3	11	580	31		30	93	7	12	
CEREDIGION	Dyfi estuary/Borth	20	12	7	100	140	680	45	580	700	248	5	7
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	150	106	32	5	5	5	5	120	70	77	71	88
ANGLESEY	Cefni est./Malltraeth	8	P				350		8	125	P	3	30
	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	55	82	11			10	1		176	43	120	4
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	9	8	4	6	5		2	140	114	22	7	3
FLINT	Point of Ayr/Talacre	3	6	8	70	110	15	8	400	350	80	P	2
	CQNR/Oakenholt				150			4	7	8		10	

RSPB South Stack and Cefni est., probably at Newborough and possibly at a site on the west coast; DENBIGH: at least one brood on Llanddulas beach; FLINT: 6 AON at RSPB Pt of Ayr fledged eight; 22 nests at Gronant, including relays and 21 chicks ringed, but number of pairs and productivity unknown.

Non-breeding: 2022/23 saw the highest Wetland Bird Survey index for almost a decade, but the smoothed trend remains more than 70% below its peak in 1978/79. Over that time, the declines in Swansea Bay, and on the Severn and Cleddau estuaries have been especially marked.

Counts ≥100 additional to table on p.70. GWENT: 140 at St Brides on 21 May; 165 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 27 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: 111 in Glaslyn/Dwyryd est. on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 240 at Foryd on 20 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 115 at Traeth Dulas on 23 Aug.; 100 at Traeth Lligwy on 1 Oct.

Several small, dark birds thought to be of the subspecies *C.h. psammodromus*, which breed in Svalbard, the Faeroes, Iceland and westward, passed through Bardsey, CAERNARFON, in spring and autumn.

2022 CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON. A three-visit survey by RSPB Cymru to suitable nesting habitat around Cardigan Bay, from Borth to Bardsey, recorded 47-59 pairs, with possibly up to 77 pairs. Of these, six were at the mouth of the Dyfi estuary in CEREDIGION, 23 were between Aberdyfi and Harlech in MEIRIONNYDD and 47 between Black Rock Sands and Aberdaron, CAERNARFON, with one more on Bardsey. The stretch of coast with the highest counts was from Criccieth to Pwllheli (east), with 24 pairs, although a maximum of 19 on a single visit (David Anning, in litt.)

2020 GWENT, amendment and additional records:

Sites with ≥100 Ringed Plover		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	5	8	15	12	4	53	67	271	77	27	50	
	Peterstone Wentlooge					5	1		250	103	20		21

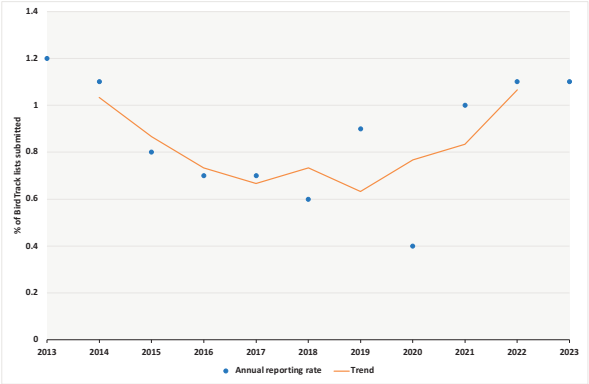
Also 200 at St Brides in Sept. and possibly bred at Llanwern steelworks.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Localised breeder on industrial sites and gravel shoals of South Wales rivers: 144 pairs in 2007 (RBBP: 71 pairs in 2022). Uncommon passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	290	327
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Little Ringed Plover in Wales 2013-23



The records below total 15-21 breeding pairs (*cf*. 42-50 in 2022, which included a survey of the R.Tywi). The BirdTrack reporting rate has increased to its level of a decade ago.

GWENT: pair bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Llanilid and Hirwaun Opencast; GOWER: 1-2 pairs bred at Castell Ddu and pair bred at Grove Farm Marsh; CARMARTHEN: 1-2 pairs bred at Penclacwydd and a pair on R.Tywi at Llandeilo, but no wider coverage of the river; BRECON:

four territories on R.Usk at Scethrog (at least one chick recorded); two territories at Llangorse Lake, from which at least one chick fledged; two pairs at Talybont Res. and at Blaen Dyffryn/Ystrad Quarries but both failed on eggs; probably bred at Blaen Onneu quarry; RADNOR: at least three pairs on R.Wye; MONTGOMERY: five pairs nested on R.Severn around Caersws, fledging 15 young (3.0/nest); possibly bred at Dolydd Hafren and Llandinam GP; MEIRIONNYDD: two territories at Llyn Trawsfynydd; ANGLESEY: pair at RSPB Cors Ddyga, but no evidence of breeding; DENBIGH: bred at Aled Isaf Res.; up to three at RSPB Conwy throughout summer but no evidence of breeding; FLINT: pair bred successfully at St Asaph Business Park and brooded a second clutch.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Lt Ringed Plover	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	15 March	Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff)	11 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	9 April	Hirwaun Industrial Estate	24 July	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	**3 March**	**Margam Opencast**	**23 Sept.**	**Castell Ddu**
CARMARTHEN	17 March	R.Tywi above Llandeilo	15 Aug.	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	14 March	Teifi Marshes	6 Sept.	Nevern estuary
CEREDIGION	14 March	Teifi Marshes	19 July	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	18 March	Llangasty	6 Aug.	Llangasty
RADNOR	31 March	R.Wye at Glasbury	12 Aug.	Llowes
MONTGOMERY	7 April	Llandinam GP	12 July	Llyn Coed-y-dinas
MEIRIONNYDD	3 April	Pennal	23 July	Dwyryd estuary
CAERNARFON	3 April	Llanengan floods	no autumn records	
ANGLESEY	7 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga	12 Sept.	Alaw estuary
DENBIGH	28 March	Acrefair & Clwyd estuary	10 Sept.	Clwyd estuary
FLINT	26 March	St Asaph Business Park	10 Sept.	Clwyd estuary

The first of the year in GOWER matched one in 2010 as the earliest this century, while the last in autumn was 15 days later (*cf*. 2010). The first spring record at Teifi Marshes was the earliest this century in PEMBROKE by nine days (*cf*. 2013) and by two days in CEREDIGION. The last in PEMBROKE was a day later than one in 2014.

Notable. GWENT: 17 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 6 July; BRECON: one on the summit of Mynydd Llangynidr on 11 May.

2020 GWENT, amendment: earliest record was on 20 March at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); 11-13 breeding pairs: two pairs fledged min. three young at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), at least two broods at former Llanwern steelworks, 1-2 pairs bred at Ynys-y-fro Res., 1-2 broods at Llandegfedd Res.; five nests at Llanfihangel Gobion. Breeding record at Beaufort should be disregarded.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* CORNCHWIGLEN

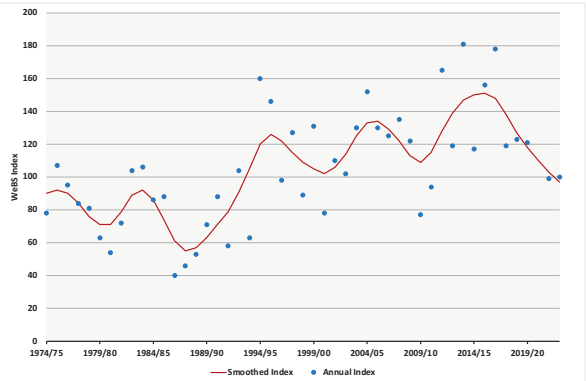
Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct in many counties. Also a winter visitor, principally in coastal areas and especially during hard weather to the east. 95% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2776	2131
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	13%

Breeding evidence was reported from 52 sites, although information from Gwent and Eastern Glamorgan may not be complete. The total number of confirmed pairs was 260 at 26 sites (*cf*. 206 pairs at 16 sites in 2022). Where productivity was monitored (206 pairs at nine sites), the mean was 0.78 young fledged/pair (*cf*. 0.72 in 2022) but four sites were below the 0.6-0.8 required to maintain the population.

Sites with breeding evidence (fledged young/pair where monitored): GWENT: 11 pairs fledged two (0.18) at Newport Wetlands Reserve; up to 15 pairs at Wilcrick Moor and five at Oxleaze Reen, fledging several young; probably bred at Hoaldalbert, near Grosmont; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Llanilid and probably at Dowlais and Mynydd Ty-talwyn; GOWER: two nests at Llanrhidian Marsh and Whiteford; brood at Margam Landfill; 1-2 nests at Rhossili Down; probably bred at Castell Ddu and Cwm Ivy; CARMARTHEN: one fledged from 7 AON at Penclacwydd (0.14); CEREDIGION: 54 fledged from 43 pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir (1.26); 5-6 AON at Cors Caron; BRECON: 5-6 pairs at Llangorse Lake, from which one chick possibly fledged; possibly bred at Bronllys; displaying males at two other sites; MONTGOMERY: several pairs nested in maize stubble near Caerhowel; possibly bred at Heldre Hill; MEIRIONNYDD: six fledged from three pairs at Penllyn (2.0); min. 3 AON on Mynydd Mynyllod; 2-3 AON south of Llyn Trawsfynydd from which two fledged; single nests at Clawdd Poncen and Melin y Wig; possibly bred at three other sites; CAERNARFON: min. nine fledged from 12 AON at Morfa Madryn/Glan-y-môr Elias (0.75); none fledged from nine pairs at Morfa Dinlle (0.0); possibly bred at Blaen Eidda Uchaf; ANGLESEY: 62 pairs fledged 104 at RSPB Cors Ddyga, the highest ever count of fledged chicks (1.67); seven pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands, of which at least three nested but none fledged (0.0); probably bred at Cors Bodeilio and Llangefni Lagoons, and possibly at Cors Erddreiniog; DENBIGH: min. 6 AON at Ynys Wen and possibly six other pairs at Ysbyty Ifan; seven nests/broods (and possibly at eight other sites) in 3km^2 around B5113 northwest of Pentrefoelas; 3 AON at Llechrydau; bred at Bryneglwys; probably bred at Fenn's Moss and possibly at six other sites; FLINT: 52 pairs at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (1.69 from 68 pairs across the whole site); possibly bred near Sealand.

Wetland Bird Survey: Lapwing in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Sites with ≥750 Lapwing		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	2000	1250	43	56	400	300	330
GOWER	Llanrhidian/Wernffrwd	900	500	225	20	41	300	1500
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	700	418	39	45	34	100	1000
	Gwendraeth estuary	800	400	7		120	392	150
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	2000	1500		1	30	472	1100
	Castlemartin Corse	2000	1500			6	250	*c.*1000
	Marloes area	2000	400	1			150	50
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	1400	300	3		3		840
CAERNARFON	Foryd/Morfa Dinlle	1052	932	12	29	460	430	220
ANGLESEY	RSPB Cors Ddyga	2100	1500	330	90	400	1000	1200
	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	706	400			7	1125	887
	Aberffraw	750	500			445		1000
	Cemlyn	500	1000			600	400	74
	Cefni est./Malltraeth	2000	1800	10	6	130	400	500
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	2133	856	447	195	334	506	822
	Rhyl Marine Lake	476	654	9	P	204	1126	1225
FLINT	Point of Ayr/Talacre	883	315	17		83	400	510
	CQNR/Oakenholt	2500	1000	200	300	500	400	650

Non-breeding: two relatively poor years took the Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index to its lowest level in 30 years and only 7% above its 1974/75 baseline. Carmarthen Bay, the Dee, Cleddau and Dyfi estuaries are among the sites exhibiting the greatest reductions, although there are probably farmland sites inland that are not counted for WeBS. Shallow flooding of RSPB Cors Ddyga attracted the site's highest ever count in January, with 1000 more birds than last winter's record. Larger than usual numbers remained in the early months of the year following a cold-weather influx in December 2022. The threshold for inclusion below has been increased from ≥500 to ≥750.

Counts ≥750 in addition to table on p. 73: CAERNARFON: 751 at Caerhun on 8 Feb.; FLINT: 4000 at Sealand Ranges on 2 Feb. and 2300 here on 4 March; 1150 at Flint Marsh on 18 Nov.

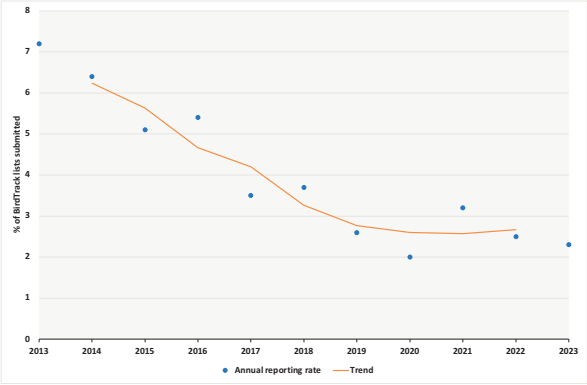
2020 GWENT, amendment: two pairs bred at Garnlydan Res.; 5-6 pairs fledged min. three young near Whitson; 20 pairs fledged five young at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); possibly bred near Aberbeeg and at Garn-yr-erw.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* COEGYLFINIR

Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland. A few overwinter. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	720	711
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	2%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Whimbrel in Wales 2013-23



The BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen markedly, lower only in lockdown year 2020. The three-year mean is 57% below that in 2013-15 and maximum counts from regular sites were well below par. This presumably reflects the trend in breeding population in Iceland, where numbers fell by around 40% in the southwest during 2012-21 and were also reported to be down in the east during 2009-19, whereas populations are stable in the west and northeast (Cerezo-Araujo *et al*. 2024). The drivers of the decline in southwest Iceland are unclear, but it does not appear to be caused by any change in breeding productivity. Notable in mid-April were large counts at several sites, especially in the Burry Inlet, GOWER, when a northerly airflow halted migration (see also Bar-tailed Godwit).

First winter period, all singles. GOWER: Blackpill on 4 Jan.; PEMBROKE: Newgale Marsh on 19 Feb.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 9 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 17 March presumed to have wintered.

Spring passage began with two at St Pierre Pill, GWENT, and one at RSPB Pt of Ayr, FLINT, on 4 April, although singles in March at Llangasty, BRECON, on 5th, on Skokholm, PEMBROKE, on 22-25th and four at RSPB Newport Wetlands Reserve, GWENT, on 25th perhaps wintered elsewhere in Europe. The last passage records were at Rhyl Marine Lake, DENBIGH, on 6 Nov. and Port Talbot Dock, GOWER, on 9 Nov.

Passage counts ≥30 additional to table on p.75. GWENT: 239 between Peterstone and Goldcliff Pt on 23 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 56 at Rumney Gt Wharf on 25 April; GOWER: 48 at Port Eynon Pt and 35 at Berthlwyd on 19 April; 50 at Loughor Bridge on 20 April; 63 at Castell Ddu on 23 April and 37 here on 24th;

Sites with ≥30 Whimbrel		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
GWENT	Goldcliff Point	4	45	53	2	4	7	5	
	Peterstone		71	16		4	4	4	
	West Pill		36	30		1	4	2	
GOWER	Whiteford Point		61	359		22	85	2	4
	Salthouse Point		34			4	6	3	
GOWER/CARM	Loughor estuary		50	24		3	4	1	
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary		42	33	4	5	30	8	3
CERE/PEMB	Teifi estuary		75	70	3		1	3	
PEMBROKE	Skokholm								
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan		50	70	1	5	7	5	
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran		83	30	1				

CARMARTHEN: 31 at Kidwelly Quay on 9 May; PEMBROKE: 34 passed Strumble Head on 19 Aug.; CEREDIGION: *c*.100 at Ynyslas on 20 April and 31 here on 5 May; CAERNARFON: 45 on Bardsey on 17 April, 39 here on 26th and 44 on 30th; 71 at Foryd on 23 April; ANGLESEY: 52 at Brynteg on 2 Sept.; DENBIGH: 40 on Conwy est. on 19 April.

Second winter period. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 10 Nov.; PEMBROKE: on Cleddau est., two on the Gann on 3 Nov. and singles at Angle Bay on 20 Nov. and the Gann on 20-26 Dec.; Newgale Marsh on 19 Nov. and 13-15 Dec.; Skokholm on 8-26 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Aber Ogwen on 26 Nov.; DENBIGH/FLINT: Clwyd est. on 3-14 Nov.

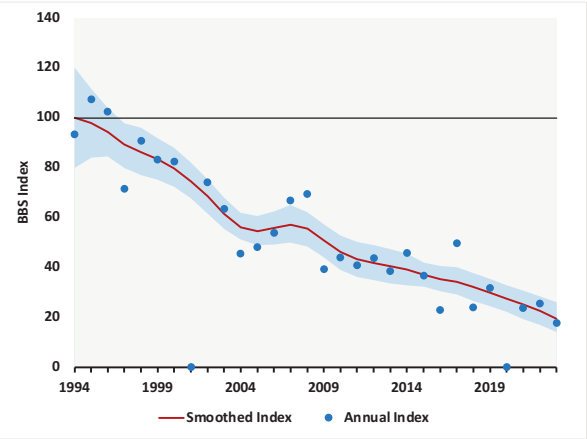
Inland records, singles unless stated: CEREDIGION: two at Cors Caron on 4 May; BRECON: Llangasty on 5 March (the earliest county record by more than a month); two at Brechfa Pool on 25 April; Llangorse Lake on 26 April and 1 May, three here on 3 May and singles on 7th, 9th and 12th; RADNOR: eight records at night during April-May; three at Llowes on 3 May; MONTGOMERY: over Llanidloes at night on 17 April.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata* GYLFINIR

Localised and declining breeding species in upland Wales and a few lowland sites. Widespread but declining winter visitor to coastal areas. Amber WeBS alert: -37% long-term, the greatest decline of any country in the UK. 64% decline on non-estuarine coastal sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4405	4420
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	17%

Breeding Bird Survey: Curlew in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey index reached another new low, 77% below its 1995 level. Curlew is the only breeding wader for which a BBS trend can be generated in Wales, but the sample size is only just sufficient to do so. Local recording efforts found 286-322 territories, of which more than three-quarters were in Important Curlew Areas. Assessing nesting success is very difficult, even where intensive monitoring is undertaken, but from 34 nests monitored, min. 13-23

fledged (0.38-0.68) and at least 13 fledged from 39-42 territories with less intensive monitoring (*c*. 0.3).

Important Curlew Areas

Twelve locations have been identified as Important Curlew Areas (ICA) by Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales, a partnership of organisations with a shared ambition of reversing the decline in breeding Curlew in Wales (**curlewwales.org/gylfinircymru.org**). ICAs (see map in *WBR 2022*) were selected based on known numbers of breeding Curlews and/or groups or landowners who expressed enthusiasm to organise conservation interventions, although as of breeding season 2023, only six (marked * in the table) were underway. To maximise conservation effort for the breeding population, Gylfinir Cymru asks birdwatchers, farmers, gamekeepers and others who see Curlews away from the coast during March to July to submit details to **bit.ly/curlewcymru**. Thanks to Bethan Beech at Natural Resources Wales for compiling the table.

Important Curlew Area	*County*	*Lead organisation*	*Population estimates and breeding productivity where known*
1. Cefni Valley*	ANGLESEY	RSPB Cymru	Six territories, seven hatched and at least one fledged from two nests monitored (0.5).
2. Mynydd Hiraethog*	DENBIGH	RSPB Cymru	41 territories. 11-20 fledged from 29 nests monitored (0.38-0.69) and casual records suggest 1-5 other pairs bred.
3. Ysbyty Ifan*	CAERNARFON/ DENBIGH	National Trust	12 territories. Productivity figures included in ICA 2.
4. Ruabon	DENBIGH	GWCT	No survey, but one ad hoc record that a pair probably bred.
5. South Clwyd Mountains	MEIRIONNYDD/ DENBIGH	Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape	44 territories. No productivity survey but two fledged from one nest.
6. Berwyn	MONT/MEIR/DEN	Natural Resources Wales	Survey of NNR found no territories, but casual recording found 8-10 pairs in North Berwyn and 1-2 pairs in South Berwyn.
7. Fenn's & Whixall Moss*	DENBIGH/Salop	Natural Resources Wales	Estimated 10 territories (2023). No productivity survey but min. two fledged.
8. Curlew Country	MONT/Salop	Curlew Country project	No monitoring.
9. Montgomeryshire	MONTGOMERY	Monts Wildlife Trust	Estimated 50 territories from combination of surveys and casual records.
10. Elenydd*	RADNOR	Elan Valley Trust	10 territories and three nests found. No survey of nesting success but at least one brood considered to have fledged. Nearby, a pair bred above Claerwen Res.
11. Ireland Moor*	RADNOR	GWCT	Min. 12 territories, from which at least six young were seen to fly.
12. Usk catchment & Llangorse Lake	BRECON/GWENT	Bannau Brycheiniog NPA	12-15 territories, chicks known or suspected to have fledged from three.

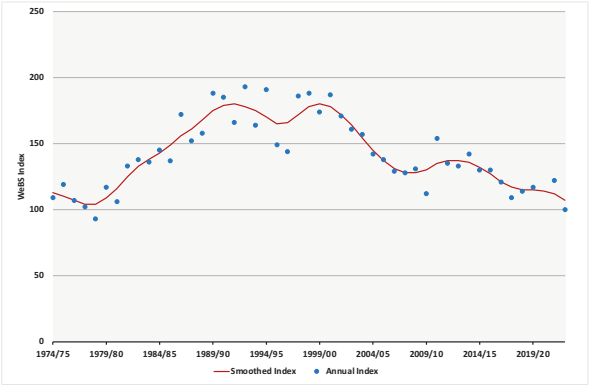
In addition to the ICAs: GWENT: 18-22 pairs in the north of the county, with 5-6 chicks seen at three sites but only one confirmed to have fledged; E.GLAMORGAN: two above Bedlinog and around Rhaslas Pond from mid-April to mid-June suggested at least one pair; CARMARTHEN: singles on Mynydd Llanllwni and at Cilycwm in mid-May; PEMBROKE: three pairs fledged one young on Skomer (0.33); CEREDIGION: eight pairs at Cors Caron and another 10 within 20km radius; BRECON: three pairs probably bred in Llanwrthwl area; two pairs probably bred at Pantyllyn/Banc-y-celyn and Cefn Gledwen/Gwenddwr; 1-2 pairs probably bred at Cwmowen/Epynt (East) and single pairs at Llysdinam and Drover's Arms, Epynt; pair possibly bred at Llyn Dwr; RADNOR: 13 territories; MEIRIONNYDD: surveys found five pairs south of Trawsfynydd from which at least two fledged (0.4), 6-7 pairs at Cwmtirmynach; 4-5 pairs at Mynydd Mynyllod, two pairs at Cynwyd, Cefn Caer Euni, Melin y Wig and Llanuwchllyn, single territories at 8-12 other sites; CAERNARFON: possibly bred at Mynytho Common and Llangybi, but first year with no breeding evidence on Mynydd Llandygai; DENBIGH: possibly bred above Acrefair and Nant-y-ffrith, and present at six other sites; FLINT:

bred at Trelawnyd and possibly at Cilcain.

Pre-breeding sites, where birds gather to build up body condition before dispersing to territories, are most evident inland. Examples of peak counts in March include, BRECON: 50 at Ffordd Fawr on 12th and 40 at Llangorse Lake on 14th; RADNOR: 63 at Glasbury on 6th, the highest count this century; MONTGOMERY: 36 at Dolydd Hafren on 15th.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has only been lower once in its 49-year history, which was shortly before hunting of Curlews was prohibited. The smoothed index has fallen by more than 40% since the turn of the century. Numbers have remained stable on the Welsh side of the Severn estuary during that period, but have fallen at almost every other site. No sites in Gwent or the Burry Inlet SPA, Carmarthenshire, could muster >500 on a single date, and we anticipate reducing the threshold for inclusion in next year's *Welsh Bird Report*. The BirdTrack reporting rate was lower than in any year without lockdowns, and is 29% below the three-year mean of 2013-15.

Wetland Bird Survey: Curlew in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Sites with ≥500 Curlew		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	561	602	147	32	3		306	286	418	386	474	378
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	1274	955	646	350	95	240	1119	1249	1600	1012	1386	2412
FLINT	Point of Ayr/Talacre	721	512	643	100	20	130	850	1200	1500	1258	442	606

2020 GWENT, additional: breeding season records from 13 locations.

Colour-ringing. GWENT: yellow-flagged R29 'head-started' in the Notec valley, northwest Poland, in 2019 was recorded at Peterstone on 13 occasions in successive winters between 17 October 2020 and 15 January 2023, illustrating how site-faithful Curlews are to wintering sites. Another (T32), released on 20 July 2022 in the Zelizna grasslands, eastern Poland, was at Peterstone on 14 January 2024. A male ringed in 2012 (which nested every subsequent year in the lower Rhine valley, Germany) wintered at Goldcliff each winter during 2019/20 to 2023/24); The Usk estuary also hosted Curlew ringed at Caersws, MONTGOMERY, the Wye Valley-Herefordshire andSevern Vale-Gloucestershire, as well as 36 of 41 ringed at the site in 2015/16. Details from Smart (2024).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRAITH

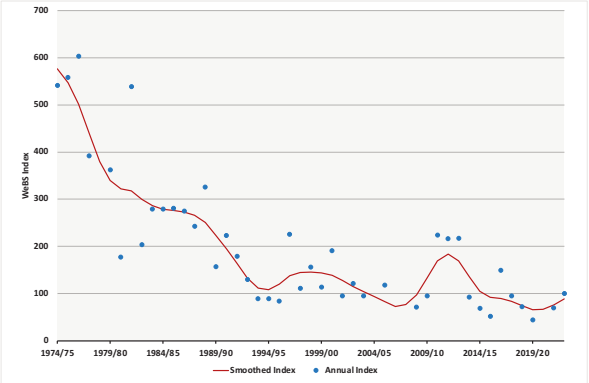
Local passage migrant, more numerous in autumn than spring, and winter visitor. Rare away from the coasts. Red WeBS alert: -50% long-term and -51% short-term, although +21% medium term. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	484	570
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index bounced off its record low in 2021/22, but remains 85% below its baseline in 1975/76. The peak WeBS counts in 2022/23 on the Dee and Severn estuaries, Carmarthen Bay and Burry Inlet were all substantially higher than in the previous year. A huge pulse of passage on 20-22 April resulted in the highest totals on the Burry

Inlet since 1997, with 1135 counted at different sites across the three days, although some duplication is possible. The 20 April also saw 450 on the CEREDIGION side of the Dyfi estuary and there had been smaller, but not insignificant, numbers in E.GLAMORGAN and GWENT the previous day. The extended spring migration helped to push the BirdTrack reporting rate to its highest level since 2013.

Wetland Bird Survey: Bar-tailed Godwit in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Counts ≥50 additional to the table. GWENT: 152 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 19 April; 101 at Caldicot Pill on 22 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 210 up channel from Lavernock Pt, 190 on Ogmore est. and 95 at Sker Pt on 19 April; GOWER: 170 at Kenfig rivermouth on 20 April; 52 at Aberafan on 21 April; GOWER/CARMARTHEN: 204 on Loughor est. on 20 April; 54 at Crymlyn Burrows on 22 April.

Sites with ≥50 Bar-tailed Godwit		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER/CARM	Burry Inlet	45	1	1	547	49		3	6	52	4	23	166
CARMARTHEN	Burry Port/Pembrey	6		49	200	38			10	1			
	Gwendraeth estuary	47	51	100							2		
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	13	5	7	450		1			62	2	17	14
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	35	64	14	2	3	2	1	13	112	26	80	43
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	132	67	57	5	11	5	3	5	88	20	99	120
FLINT	Point of Ayr	2	5	3	4		400	150	45	110	150	350	5

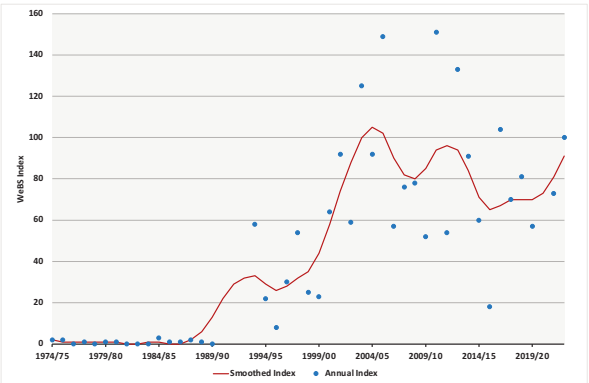
Inland records. BRECON: Brechfa Pool on 26 April; Llangorse Lake on 26 April, three on 3 May and one on 12th; MONTGOMERY: Llanidloes GC on 17 April; three near Caerhowel on 29 April; MEIRIONNYDD: Llyn Tegid on 20 April.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Local spring and autumn passage migrant; wintering numbers have increased on the Dee estuary, usually on the English side. Amber WeBS alert: -27% short-term, but +140% for long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2024	2154
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	8%

Wetland Bird Survey: Black-tailed Godwit in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Numbers were above average, thanks to good counts in Carmarthen Bay, Traeth Lafan and RSPB Cors Ddyga during winter 2022/23. Notable were the large counts remaining throughout the summer in South Wales and the Dee estuary, which are presumed mostly to comprise 2CY birds. The BirdTrack reporting rate attained another new high, and the three-year mean is 28% higher than 2013-15.

Sites with ≥100 Black-tailed Godwit		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	18	10	300	200	223	300	309	500	600	200	107	61
	St Brides	1	101	250				2	7	2	1	3	
GOWER	Dalton's Pt/Morfa Bacas	95	277	330	297	544	582	354	870	455	800	304	124
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	246	313	816	1225	870	553	656	1094	900	794	90	40
	Taf/Tywi/Gwendraeth est.	120	180	270	1	1		2	5	2	150	193	165
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	250	150	97	70	13		5	9	3	25	66	206
	Pembroke Mill Ponds	6	129	101					9		70	66	200
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	150	170	122	2	1	1	5	7	8	30	60	205
ANGLESEY	RSPB Cors Ddyga	600	500	250	12	10	11	1	19	1	400	35	90
DENB/FLINT	Clwyd estuary*	170	112	172	65	6	1	41	7	6	5	150	10
FLINT	Point of Ayr/Talacre	428	200	301		1	30	20	25	3	370	425	200
	Flint Marsh	500	250	700	1	2		400	20	1000	18	10	20
	RSPB Burton Mere			c.300	500	55	46	50	2	50	350		30
	CQNR/Oakenholt Marsh	2000	1500	2000	1500	1100	700	1000	4000	3200	4000	30	80

*includes Rhyl Marine Lake.

Counts ≥100 elsewhere. GOWER: 430 at Berthlwyd on 2 June; 400 at Crofty in Oct.; ANGLESEY: 116 on Gorad flood, Valley, on 11-30 Nov.; DENBIGH: 1000 on Holt floods on 25 Nov.; FLINT: 606 on flooded fields at Shotwick on 18 Nov.

Inland records. E.GLAMORGAN: Llanilid on 2 June; BRECON: two at Llangorse Lake on 31 Aug. and 30 Oct.; BRECON/RADNOR: two on R.Wye at Glasbury/Ffordd Fawr on 16-18 Oct. and probably a different two here on 23-24 and 30 Oct., presumed same in BRECON at Llangorse Lake on 30th.

2020 GWENT, amendment and additional records:

Sites with ≥50 Black-tailed Godwit		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	100	5	59	120	5	14	315	373	407	155	56	125
	Peterstone Wentlooge	110		3				14		2	3	160	12

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus* GIACH BACH

Uncommon (and probably under-recorded) passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

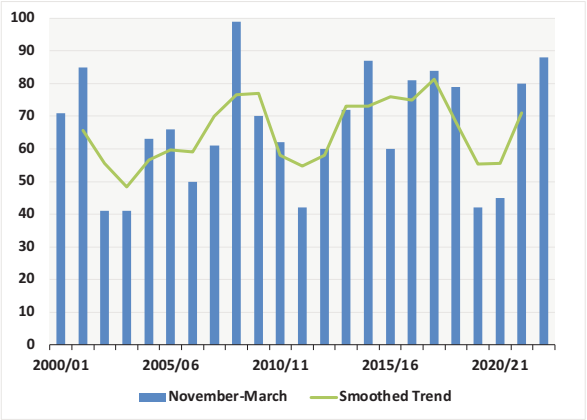
	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	104	123
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Winter 2022/23 was one of the best seasons for the species this century, although this may reflect increased affordability and use of thermal imaging equipment by birdwatchers, and especially ringers, of cryptic and nocturnal wader species. The BirdTrack reporting rate was typical of recent years, but is half that of a decade ago.

Counts ≥5 additional to table on p.80. GWENT: five at Peterstone Sluice Farm on 24 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Pwll Lagoon LNR on 30 Nov.; BRECON: five at Llangorse Lake on 13 Jan. and Mynydd Illtyd on 15 Jan.; RADNOR: six at Rhiw Bottom in March; six at Rhosgoch in Nov.; CAERNARFON: five at Foryd on 22 Jan.; ANGLESEY: five at Traeth Dulas on 3 Feb.; 18 at Traeth Coch on 18 Nov.; DENBIGH: five at Eryrys on 24 Dec.; FLINT: seven at Gronant on 21 Jan.

Unseasonal. CAERNARFON: Foel Fras on 7 May; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 25 May.

Jack Snipe: county max. during Nov.-March, 2000/01-22/23



Jack Snipe: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	9	5	3	1			1	4	
E.GLAMORGAN	3	3	1				2	5	4
GOWER	3	2	2	1				3	4
CARMARTHEN	1							14	2
PEMBROKE	3	4		1		1		3	2
CEREDIGION	1	3						1	4
BRECON	13	3	1						1
RADNOR			6	1			1	6	
MONTGOMERY	1		2						
MEIRIONNYDD	3			2					
CAERNARFON	6	9	3	6		1	1	1	8
ANGLESEY	7	10	6	1			3	32	6
DENBIGH	2	5	3	1				3	7
FLINT	12	6	4				3	4	8

2020 GWENT, additional records: singles in Jan., April and two in Dec.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* CYFFYLOG

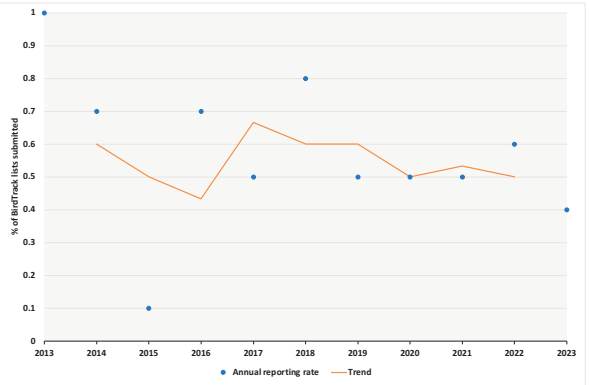
Localised breeder, rarer than in the last century. Widespread and fairly common in winter. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	211	221
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A breeding season survey of the UK and Isle of Man, organised by the BTO and GWCT, recorded Woodcock in 5.3% of sites surveyed in Wales, similar to the level in 2013 but 75% lower than in 2003. However, the average number of males at occupied sites was higher than in either of the previous two surveys resulting in a population estimate of 1138 (455-1856). This was almost 25% higher than in 2013, but 48% lower than 20 years ago. The Britain-wide change was -8% since 2013 and -30% since 2003 (Heward *et al.* 2024). The estimate illustrates how under-represented Woodcocks are in casual reports by birdwatchers during the breeding season. Some of the records listed here may have been collected during the BTO/GWCT survey; singles unless stated. GWENT: two at Broad Meend on 29 May; two at Wentwood on 2 June; E.GLAMORGAN: Cae'r Llan, above Bryngolau, on 4 June; CAERNARFON: roded in Coed Gwydyr south of Llanrhychwyn on 2 June; DENBIGH: Ceiriog Valley on 6 July.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate was its lowest level since 2015, and the three-year average fell further below that of 2013-15. Most multiple counts were from nocturnal ringing effort or shoots. The impact of shooting on either the breeding or wintering population is not known, but a higher proportion of paid-for shoots in Wales offer Woodcock than the UK average (28.5%). The estimated bag size in Wales was 7000 birds in 2019/20, of which 6% were shot before 1 December, in the period recommended by the GWCT for voluntary restraint (McNicol *et al.* 2024).

BirdTrack reporting rate: Woodcock in Wales 2013-23



≥3 in first winter period. GWENT: five at Park Wood, Bassaleg, on 2 and 6 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: three in Coed Cefn Forest on 22 Jan.; GOWER: three in Afan Forest on 22 Feb.; PEMBROKE: max. 12 at Frenni on 19 Jan. and 14 near Boncath on 21st; BRECON: four at Coed y Rhaiadr on 20 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: four at Crafnant on 19 Jan.; three at Llyn Celyn on 15 March; CAERNARFON: nine near Penisa'r Waun on 8 Jan.; six in Daron valley on 26 Jan.; five at Glanwydden on 16 Feb.; four at Llangybi on 18 Feb.; three at Llwydfaen on 22 Feb.; six on Bardsey on 19 March; ANGLESEY: four at RSPB Valley Wetlands on 20 Jan.; four at Llanddyfnan on 27 Jan. and five here on 26 Feb.; four at Bodffordd STW on 7 Feb.; six at Llanfechell on 18 Feb.; five at Pen-y-parc on 23 Feb.; four at Waun Eurad on 19 March; DENBIGH: three at Fenn's Moss on 12 Jan.; three above Colwyn Bay on 13 March; FLINT: seven at Old Warren, Broughton, on 7 Jan. and six here on 22nd; seven near Dob's Hill on 15 Jan.; three at Hawarden Ind. Park on 10 March.

≥3 in second winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: three at Bryn Du on 29 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: three at Newchurch on 31 Oct.; three near Nantgaredig on 12 Nov.; three at Cynghordy on 7 Dec.; PEMBROKE: max. 12 at Boncath on 9 Dec., nine at Frenni on 14th and seven at Pantirion Farm on 17th; CEREDIGION: three at Neuadd Cross on 11 Dec.; 16 at Coed-y-cym, Llangorwen, on 15 Dec.; BRECON: three on Buckland Hill and on Mynydd Illtyd on 24 Nov.; five near Coelbren on 25 Nov.; nine in Nant Car on 31 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: seven at Llyn Mawr on 19 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Islawrdref on 28 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 22 caught at a site in the lower Conwy Valley between 19 Nov. and 18 Dec., inc. three on 19th, four on 20th, three on 23rd, five on 12th, three on 17th and three on 18th; ANGLESEY: six in Newborough Forest on 7 Nov., seven here on 21st, 10 on 5 Dec. and three on 16th; three at Silver Bay on 22 Nov. and four here on 13 Dec.; three at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 11 Dec.; four at Pentraeth on 22 Dec.; three at Mynydd Bodafon on 20 and 24 Nov.; DENBIGH: seven at Fenn's Moss on 20 Dec.

2021 FLINT, breeding season record: Rhydymwyn on 20 May.

2020 GWENT, additional records: roding males at Coed y Prior and Llanellen, and also at Wentwood in June; in winter, 4-5 near Marshfield on 12 Feb.; 12 at Llanarth on 20 Jan.

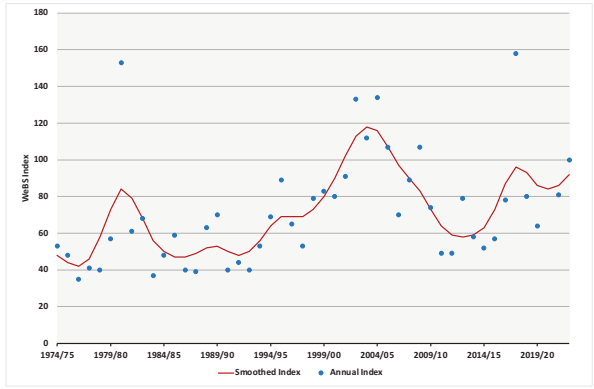
SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* GIACH CYFFREDIN

Localised but declining breeder (1100 pairs). Fairly common and more widespread in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1522	1683
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

Breeding season. Presence of a single bird in suitable habitat during the breeding season (from 33 sites, *cf*. 26 in 2022) unless greater evidence is provided: GWENT: displayed at Waun Afon Bog on 23 April; Garnlydan Res. on 17 May; two in Nant Syfiog on 23 May; two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) throughout June and July; E.GLAMORGAN: three drummed/chipped at Rhaslas Pond in May; CEREDIGION: five drummed at RSPB Ynys-hir; 16 pairs at Cors Caron; also at Cors Fochno and Cors Caron; RADNOR: drummed at seven sites, inc. >5 in Elenydd; BRECON: three displayed at Blaen Llia, two at Coed y Rhaiadr and singles on Mynydd Illtyd, RSPB Carngafallt and Nantddu; MONTGOMERY: 15 drummed at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy (not surveyed); MEIRIONNYDD: seven territories near Trawsfynydd; five drummed above Nant Llechog, Cynwyd, on 2 May; displayed at Tanrallt and Gwastadros; CAERNARFON: Ffrydlas valley on 18 and 28 April; Nantgwryd on 30 May; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 13 June; DENBIGH: bred at Fenn's Moss, probably at Esclusham Mountain and possibly east of Ysbyty Ifan and south of Alwen Res.; FLINT: one at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool on 9 June, but no evidence of breeding.

Wetland Bird Survey: Snipe in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Non-breeding: the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey trend is 90% above the 1974/75 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate was at its highest level for five years.

Counts ≥40 additional to table. GOWER: 57 at Margam Moors on 5 March; 44 at Llanrhidian on 17 March; CARMARTHEN: 77 at Pembrey Burrows on 23 Nov.; >100 at Pwll Lagoon LNR on 30 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 40 at Newgale on 29 Oct.; BRECON: 45 on Llandefalle Hill on 15 Nov.; 300 at Llangorse Lake in Dec. viewed by thermal imager; RADNOR: 65 at Rhiw Bottom in March; 80 at Rhosgoch in Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 47 at Tonfanau on 26 Nov.; 60 on bog restoration at Islawrdref on 28 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 50 on R.Erch floods at Pwllheli on 4 Dec.; ANGLESEY: "unprecedented" numbers at RSPB South Stack in Feb., max. 102 on 2nd; 64 at Traeth Coch on 14 Dec.; 47 at Traeth Melynog on 16 Dec.; DENBIGH: 55 at Fenn's Moss on 6 Nov.; 59 at Eryrys on 26 Dec.; FLINT: 148 in arable stubble beside Clwyd est. on 6 Jan.

2020 GWENT, additional territorial birds: singles at Garn-er-erw, Bal Mawr and Blaenavon Forest.

Sites with ≥40 Snipe		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Meres Reen	89	60	6						
CARMARTHEN	Taf estuary	12	8	10			6	5	63	83
	Gwendraeth estuary	58	>20	2		1	3	30	5	15
	Penclacwydd	32	60	37	8	2	15	10	11	22
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	25	64	14			9	6	22	89
	Marloes Mere	40	10	16	1		5	3	10	5
	Castlemartin Corse	50	61	29	5	4	3	7	10	75
PEMB/CERE	Teifi Marshes	60	16	10	3	1		3	2	25
BRECON	Mynydd Illtyd	66	77	46			9	31	81	22
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dywryd est.	8		3			250	6	72	74
CAERNARFON	Foryd/Morfa Dinlle	90	180	70		6	47	114	181	174
ANGLESEY	RSPB Cors Ddyga	40	36	31	12	20	50	64	45	100
	RSPB Valley Wetlands	152	99	28	30	5	62	94	445	294
	Cors Erddreiniog	3	10	40						
	Cemlyn	50	20	7	2		4	25	16	1
FLINT	Gronant	92	1	13	1	2	4	17	40	12
	Connah's Quay NR	32	26	19	3	2	3	20	3	5
	Point of Ayr	40	50	15		1	10	11	40	11

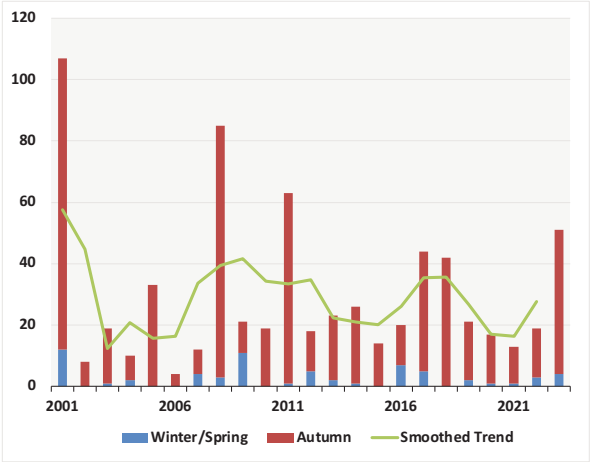
Grey Phalarope (Gaeton Canon)

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* LLYDANDROED LLWYD

Uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas during September-October. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	64	112
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Grey Phalarope: all records 2001-23



It was the best year since 2011, owing mainly to 20 in Caernarfonshire, the highest county total this century. The Breconshire record, 37km from the nearest coast, was the first in the county since 2009. Singles unless stated. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 20-26 Sept. (two reported on 21st) and 6-10 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: Porthcawl on 28 Sept.; moribund at Kenfig NNR on 28 Sept.; Ogmore est. on 29 Sept.; GOWER: Port Talbot dock on 17 Feb.; R.Neath on 27 March; CARMARTHEN: Pembrey Pt on

20-21 and 28 Sept.; Penclacwydd on 20-22 Sept.; Ferryside on 30 Sept.; Kidwelly Quay on 7-10 Oct.; PEMBROKE: two passed Amroth on 20 Sept.; St Davids GC on 26 Sept.; Skomer on 27 Sept.; three passed Strumble Head on 29 Sept.; Ramsey on 3 Oct.; two north of Ramsey on 7 Oct.; CEREDIGION: freshly dead at Penbryn on 2 Jan.; RSPB Ynys-hir on 3 Oct.; Aberystwyth on 10 Oct.; New Quay on 17 Nov.; BRECON: Cantref Res. on 20-21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 30 July and 3-4 Oct.; Criccieth on 20 Sept. and two here on 28th; Llyn Bach on 21-22 and 26 Sept.; Porthor on 25 Sept. and two here on 14 Nov.; three on Penrhos floods, Llanbedrog, on 29 Sept., two here on 30th and one until 2 Oct.; Morfa Dinlle from 29 Sept. to 2 Oct.; Glan y Môr Elias on 30 Sept., 10 Oct. and 17 Nov.; Rhos Pt on 3 and 13 Oct.; Porth Ysgaden on 14 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Trearddur Bay on 1 Jan.; Valley on 29-30 Sept. and 8-12 Oct.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* LLYDANDROED GYDDFGOCH

Scarce passage migrant. WBRC: 71 previous records.

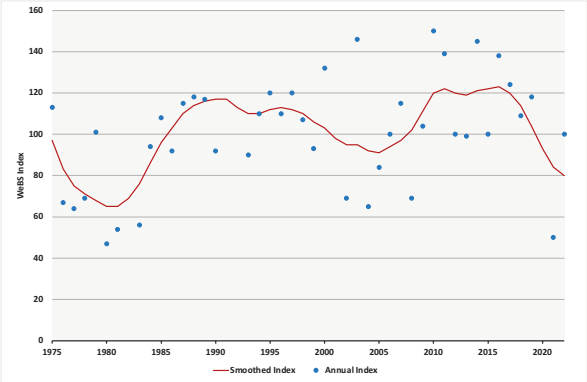
ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga from 26 Sept. to 7 Oct.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* PIBYDD DORLAN

Summer visitor that breeds in most counties, but declining (490 pairs). Around 20 over-winter, though up to 40 in some years. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	950	1035
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Sandpiper in Wales 1975-2022



Breeding: the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey index for the UK has fallen by 38% (1999-2022) and the UK Breeding Bird Survey index by 25% during 1995-2022. There is no separate trend for Wales for either scheme, but the BirdTrack reporting rate in the breeding season remained stable over the last 10 years.

A single-visit survey of 20 lakes was undertaken in Eryri National Park in June, about half the total number of waterbodies with a surface area of >2ha in CAERNARFON. 29 territories were recorded at 16 lakes. The site with the most was Llyn Conwy, where seven territories along 4km of shoreline compared positively with four in 2014 and eight in the 1980s. The paper, published in the *Cambrian Bird Report,* suggests a county population of *c*.50 pairs on lakes and reservoirs, and *c*.75 pairs on streams and rivers.

Summary of breeding season records. GWENT: probably bred on R.Usk at Llanwenarth and Llanfihangel Gobion; E.GLAMORGAN: 2-3 at Llanilid in June; CEREDIGION: probably bred on Llyn Penrhaeadr; RADNOR: 1-2 around each of the Elan reservoirs and singles at four river locations but no breeding evidence; BRECON: nine territories on 13 May along 4.5km of R.Usk between R.Menascin confluence above Pencelli and Llansantffraed, where 20 adults and several chicks were above Llansantffraed Bridge on 29 June, a brood was probably at Pont-ar-wysg Bridge on 30th and two pairs bred below Llangynidr Bridge; probably bred at Usk Res., Talybont Res. and Llangorse Lake (two pairs each) and R.Wye at Llanstephan, Pwll-y-faedda

(Erwood) and Tregaer Bridge; MONTGOMERY: bred at Dolydd Hafren and records from four other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Llyn Cwm Bychan and RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, and probably bred at six other sites; CAERNARFON: seven pairs on Llyn Conwy, three on Llyn Ogwen and Llyn Cwellyn, two on Llynau Mymbyr, Llyn Cowlyd, Llyn Eigiau and Llyn y Dywarchen, and one pair on 10 other lakes; 15 birds in Nant Ffrancon on 5 June were presumed breeding; probably bred on four other rivers; DENBIGH: 1-2 pairs bred at Aled Isaf Res.; pair bred at RSPB Conwy.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey annual index performed more strongly following the previous year's record low. That was also reflected in the BirdTrack reporting rates in spring and autumn migration periods, which were above the recent average but remain below the levels of a decade ago. Numbers are also declining in England, albeit more slowly, but in Scotland are at their highest this century.

Common Sandpiper: winter	Jan	Feb	Mar	Min.		Nov	Dec	Min.
GWENT	4	1		**5**		1	2	**2**
E.GLAMORGAN	8	2	3	**8**		3	3	**5**
GOWER	3	3	1	**4**		4	5	**7**
CARMARTHEN		1	1	**1**		2	1	**3**
PEMBROKE	11	3		**11**		5	6	**10**
CEREDIGION						1		**1**
MEIRIONNYDD	1	1		**2**				
ANGLESEY	1	1		**1**		1		**1**
DENBIGH			2	**2**				
FLINT	2	2	2	**2**		1	2	**3**

The Jan. total in PEMBROKE included nine recorded on different sections of the Cleddau est., as were five in Nov. and Dec., which may have included some duplication.

Spring passage. The threshold for inclusion here has increased from ≥3 to ≥5 birds. GWENT: six at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 26 April; five on R.Usk at Llanfoist on 28 April; seven at Ynys-y-fro Res. on 29 April; GOWER: six at Castell Ddu on 23 April; PEMBROKE: five at Ceibwr Bay on 22 April; CEREDIGION: 11 at Glandyfi on 20 April; five at RSPB Ynys-hir on 23 April; RADNOR: eight on R.Wye at Glasbury on 21 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 16 at Pennal on 21 April; eight at Tal-y-llyn on 22 April; five at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 27 April; CAERNARFON: six at Morfa Aber and five at Foryd on 23 April; ANGLESEY: up to 6 at Cemlyn on several dates between 21 April and 3 May and seven here on 23 April; seven at Ynys Tysilio on 23 April; DENBIGH: five on Clwyd est. on 22 and 28 April; 7-8 at RSPB Conwy on 22-23 April, six here on 25th and 9-10 on 4 May; FLINT: five at Bagillt on 23 April.

Post-breeding and autumn passage counts ≥7. E.GLAMORGAN: eight at Llwyn-onn Res. on 4 July may have bred locally; eight on Ogmore est. on 26 July and nine here on 20 Aug.; GOWER: 10 at Castell Ddu on 2 Aug.; 10 at Port Eynon on 3 Aug.; seven at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 6 Aug.; seven on Afan est. on 21 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: nine at Kidwelly Quay on 23 July; nine at Pwll Dredger Jetty on 1 Aug.; PEMBROKE: on Cleddau est., nine at Carew on 3 Aug. and seven at Castle Pill on 4 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 16 on Teifi est. on 12 Aug., nine here on 13th and 15 on 8 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 10 at Ynyslas on 6 July; BRECON: eight at Llangasty on 2-3 Aug.; CAERNARFON: seven on Bardsey on 23 July and 25 Aug.; eight at Pwllheli on 20 July; nine at Aber Ogwen on 26 Aug.; ANGLESEY: eight on Inland Sea on 14 Aug.; DENBIGH: eight at RSPB Conwy on 19 Aug., 10 here on 20th and at least seven on 22nd; >20 at Hen Wrych Farm, Abergele, on 12 July; FLINT: 18 at Connah's Quay NR on 8 July; 10 below Flintshire Bridge at Connah's Quay on 9 July.

2020 GWENT, amendment: 1-2 at Llandegfedd Res. in Jan. and one here on 19 Dec.; additional spring counts: 12 near Abergavenny on 14 April, eight at Llanwenarth on 20 April; three additional breeding records, two at Llanfihangel Gobion and singles near Llanfair Kilgeddin and Trefil; autumn passage counts

≥7: 11 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 19 July and 10 at Pant-y-Goitre on 13 Aug.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER *Actitis macularius* PIBYDD BRYCH

Very rare vagrant from North America. BBRC: 12 previous records.

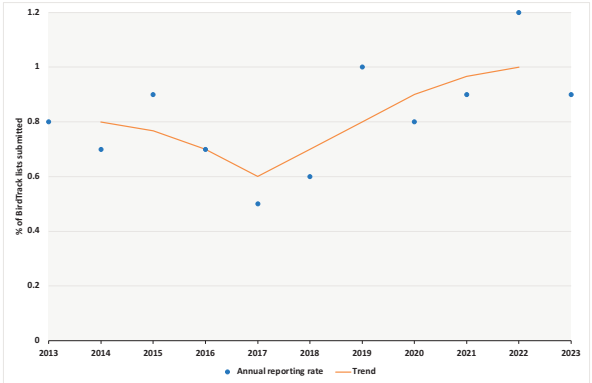
E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY on Sully Island on 10 Sept., the first record in Wales since 2016.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* PIBYDD GWYRDD

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Amber WeBS alerts: -48% long-term and -30% medium term, but short-term increase is 93%. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	352	255
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Green Sandpiper in Wales 2013-23



There is no Wetland Bird Survey trend for Wales, but that for Britain has shown no strong trend over the last 30 years. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales returned to normal following a high value in 2022.

The middle section of the R.Ely between Miskin and St Fagans, Eastern Glamorgan, has consistently held >1% of the GB wintering population since 2001. A detailed study across four winters to March 2023 suggested that it may be one of the most important sites in Britain, holding up to 5% of the GB and 10-15% of the Welsh wintering population. (Jenkins-Jones *et al*. 2024). Figures in the table on p.86 may include some duplication.

Green Sandpiper: site maxima		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	Pendoylan/Peterston	5	6	4	2			4	7	8	2	6	2
	Duffryn	4	2	1				2		2	1		
	Elsewhere on R. Ely	11	7	3	2			2				2	2

Green Sandpiper: winter	Jan	Feb	Mar	Min.		Nov	Dec	Min.
GWENT	1	3	4	**7**				
GOWER	2	2	1	**2**		2	2	**2**
CARMARTHEN	3	2	1	**4**		7	3	**10**
PEMBROKE	1	1		**2**		1	1	**1**
CEREDIGION	3	2	2	**3**		3	2	**3**
BRECON	1	1	1	**1**		1	1	**2**
RADNOR						4	1	**4**
MONTGOMERY	1		1	**2**		1	1	**1**
MEIRIONNYDD	2	1	2	**2**			1	**1**
CAERNARFON			1	**1**			1	**1**
ANGLESEY	4	4	2	**9**			4	**4**
DENBIGH			1	**1**				
FLINT	2			**2**		1	4	**5**

Counts ≥4 on passage. E.GLAMORGAN (additional to table): five at Llanilid on 20 June; GOWER: 11 on Llanrhidian on 15 Aug., four here on 19th and five on 21 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: five at Penclacwydd on 7 Aug.; PEMBROKE: four on Gann est. on 15 Aug.; CEREDIGION: six on Dyfi est. on 29 Sept.; four at Glandyfi on 22 Oct.; RADNOR: four at Llowes/Glasbury in June; ANGLESEY: four on Alaw est. on 24 Aug.; five at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 7 Sept.; DENBIGH: four at RSPB Conwy on 18 Aug.

The first to return in autumn were at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), GWENT, on 17 June; Rhoserchan pools, CEREDIGION, on 18 June; Llanilid, E.GLAMORGAN, on 20 June; and Cors Ddyga, ANGLESEY, on 22 June. These align with a wintering population at Lemsford Springs NR, Hertfordshire, tagged with geolocators that bred at sites across southern Fennoscandia, all of which returned between 19 June and 6 July. The shortest stay in the breeding area was only 27 days and the longest was 72 days. As in most waders, females headed south earlier than males (Smith *et al*. 2024).

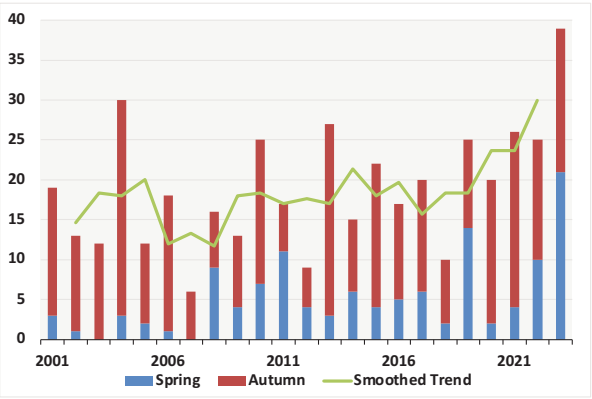
2020 GWENT, additional winter records: 1-2 on R.Monnow at Llangua between 13 Nov. and 12 Dec.; one at Llanwern steelworks on 10 Nov.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* PIBYDD GRAEAN

Uncommon passage migrant, principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	105	123
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wood Sandpiper: sum of site maxima, 2001-23



Larger numbers than usual in spring, including the first in Montgomeryshire for more than a decade, contributed to the largest annual total on record. Spring passage. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 2-5, 13 and 21 May, two (although up to four reported) on 12-21 June, one on 28-29 June; E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pool on 26-27 May; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 15 May; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 4-5 and 26 May; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren on 3 May; MEIRIONNYDD: Llyn Trawsfynydd on 3, 6 and 27 May; CAERNARFON: Afonwen on 21 May; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 17 April, two here on 4 May and singles on 7th and 25th; Cemlyn on 12 May; FLINT: RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool on 20 May and 16 June.

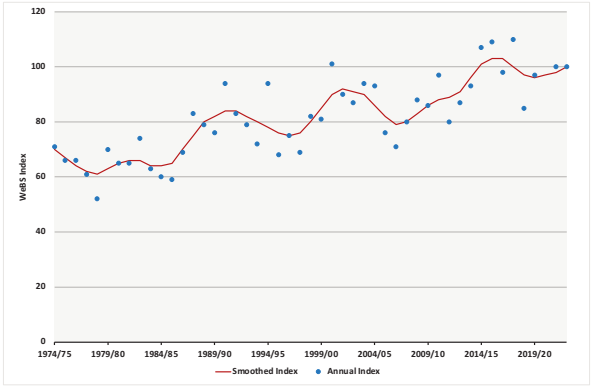
Autumn passage, singles unless stated. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 18-20 July and 20 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay on 18 Aug.; Kenfig NNR on 18-20 Aug.; Watermill flood, Ewenny, on 22-24 Aug.; GOWER: Castell Ddu on 23 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 26-27 Aug.; Kidwelly on 5 Sept.; Banc y Lord on 16 Sept.; PEMBROKE: two at Abercastle on 20 Aug.; CEREDIGION: R.Leri on 20 July; RSPB Ynys-hir on 21 July and 1 Sept.; Cors Caron on 7-9 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: Artro est. on 16 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 16-18 Aug.; two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 22-24 Aug., at least one on various dates to 10 Oct.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* PIBYDD COESGOCH

Localised and declining breeding species, now confined chiefly to saltmarshes. Abundant around the coast in winter, but 52% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	3588	3873
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

Wetland Bird Survey: Redshank in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Breeding season: min. 102 pairs at six sites (*cf*. 108-113 at 11 sites in 2022), with possible/probable breeding at 12 other sites. Mean productivity 1.25 chicks/pair where monitored (*cf*. 0.85 in 2022). GWENT: 15 pairs fledged 11 young (0.73) at Newport Wetlands Reserve; pair fledged three young at Peterstone Sluice Farm; GOWER: probably bred at Penclawdd; CARMARTHEN: pair probably bred on Loughor est.; CEREDIGION: on the Dyfi est., 45 territories at RSPB Ynys-hir, the highest total since 2008, four pairs on Clettwr saltmarsh and present at Cors Fochno and Aberleri; two pairs at Cors Caron; RADNOR: probably bred at Claerwen NNR, and possibly at Llanbister and beside the lower R.Wye.; MEIRIONNYDD: 3-4 territories on Artro est. and presumed bred on north side of Dyfi est., but no survey undertaken; ANGLESEY: territory at RSPB Cors Ddyga; FLINT: 32 pairs at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (1.45 chicks/pair from the 71 pairs across the whole site); possibly bred at White Sands.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index has plateaued in the last decade following a long-term increase, of more than 40% since 1974/75. The Dee estuary remains the most important site in Britain, to which the Welsh coast contributed about half of the total peak count of 10,200 birds in 2022/23. The BirdTrack reporting rate was at its highest since 2015, but the three-year mean remains 22% lower than in 2013-15.

Sites with ≥300 Redshank		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	St Brides	369	192	200	6		24	160	138	292	211	300	300
	Peterstone Wentlooge	395	100	130	40	10	20	110	100	250	165	55	
	Mathern	224	29	2				1	89	422	80	8	54
E.GLAMORGAN	Rhymney estuary	1500	800	300				120	500			11	1000
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	60	258	378	152		48	200	456	400	340	61	120
	Gwendraeth estuary	200	40	50	15		61	265	469	312	231	34	61
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	340	171	471	25	3	25	91	82	170	240	167	115
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	1500	439	433	60	1	13	95	174	581	1657	1233	1425
	Foryd	170	422	222	22		4	52	90	85	310	660	720
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	400	472	247	36	2		2	16	108	224	390	476
	Cefni estuary	10	122	30	20			4	69	133	900	75	130
CAER/DENB	Conwy estuary	230	326	502	185	1	2	100	313	541	605	543	280
	Clwyd estuary	200	248	43	90	2	23	36	140	50	47	152	*c*.400
FLINT	Point of Ayr/Talacre	340	502	326	12	P	1	10	50	600	750	735	441
	Flint saltmarsh	334	350	250	70			30	506	2000	600	1000	100
	CQNR/Oakenholt Marsh	450	750	400	2200	2	70	1000	5000	4000	3500	104	500

Counts ≥300 elsewhere. CARMARTHEN: 350 at Llanelli North Dock on 3 Sept.; 335 at Lliedi rivermouth on 26 Sept.

2022 MEIRIONNYDD, breeding: 13 pairs on north Dyfi saltmarsh, bringing Wales total to 108-113 pairs.

2020 GWENT, amendment and additional breeding records: 21 pairs fledged 21 young at Newport Wetlands Reserve and four pairs at St Brides.

Site with ≥300 Redshank		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Peterstone Wentlooge	65	2	300	4		32	105	175	140	925	32	68

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* MELYNGOES BACH

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 28 previous records.

GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 15-18 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Llangwm Pill on 24-27 Aug.; Skokholm on 20 Sept., presumed same on Gann est. on 22-25th.

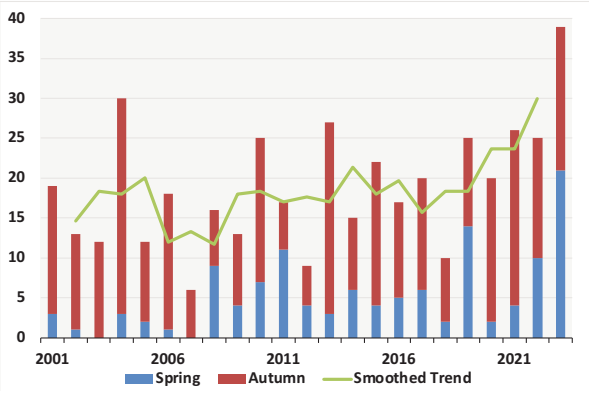
2020 GWENT, dates corrected: 1CY at Newport Wetlands on 21-27 Sept.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties, mainly in autumn. Although only small numbers overwinter, chiefly in the Burry Inlet and Dee estuary, Wales holds >50% of the British population.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	583	669
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Spotted Redshank: sum of max. site counts during Nov.-March, 2000/01-22/23



The smoothed index for the Wetland Bird Survey in Wales (not shown) was the lowest in its 49-year history, having fallen by almost two-thirds since the mid-1990s, whereas the decline using maximum site counts has been less dramatic. Indeed, the BirdTrack reporting rate has been higher during this decade than the last, which probably reflects presence at a handful of popular birdwatching sites. The Dee estuary, and in particular Connah's Quay NR, remains the most important Welsh site, whereas numbers in the Burry Inlet and Cleddau estuary have dwindled almost to nothing.

Sites with ≥4 Spotted Redshank		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FLINT	Connah's Quay NR	3					1	12	12	22	30	8	8
	RSPB Border Pool			1	8			1				1	

Numbers in each county, including those in the table on p.89.

Spotted Redshank: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1	3	1	2	1	2						
E.GLAMORGAN									1			
GOWER	1											1
CARMARTHEN	2	2	3	4			2	3	4	3	2	2
PEMBROKE					1				3		4	1
CEREDIGION						1			3		2	
CAERNARFON	1						1		1		1	
ANGLESEY		1	1	1				2	3		1	
DENBIGH	2	2	2	2			2		2	2	2	2
FLINT	3		1	8		1	13	14	24	34	12	8

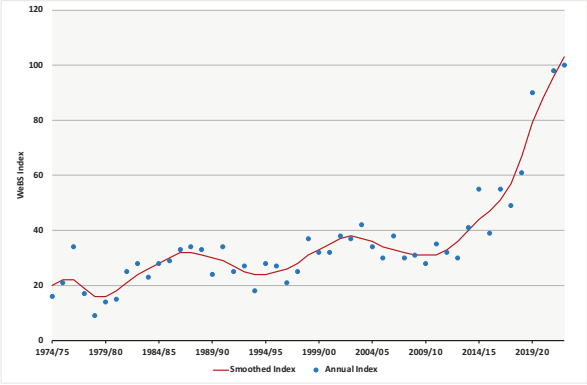
2020 GWENT, correction and additional records: three in March and one in April.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* PIBYDD COESWYRDD

Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn, and over winter. Scarce inland. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	1127	1133
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Wetland Bird Survey: Greenshank in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey annual and smoothed indices reached another new high in 2022/23, the value having more than trebled in just 12 years. The growth is stronger than in England or in Scotland, where the index has fallen in the last five years. Eleven Welsh sites are now of importance in a Great Britain context, only two fewer than Scotland, with Burry Inlet (and particularly Penclacwydd) leading the pack. Counts at Traeth Lafan were double the five-year mean in 2022/23, and those on the Dee estuary were also higher than usual. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest since 2014.

Sites with ≥15 Greenshank		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	14	7	16	12	3	3	40	68	64	62	17	5
	Gwendraeth estuary	11	9	7	8			12	25	27	19	4	
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	11	15	21	3	2	2	7	10	13	24	13	12
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	2		1	1	5	1	1	5	16	12	3	3
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	3	4	2				2	3	13	1	1	6
CAERNARFON	Foryd	13	8	11	7			5	21	28	22	18	16
	Traeth Lafan	28	26	23	8	1	5	13	35	24	46	46	35
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	7	8	4			1		15	19	21	8	6
CAER/DENB	Clwyd estuary	7	1	7	2		1	5	11	19	14	8	7
FLINT	CQNR/Oakenholt	4	9	8	6	2	3	27	38	38	31	12	8

Min. numbers in each county (including max. site counts above)

Greenshank: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT		1		5	3	7	1	3	3	1		
E.GLAMORGAN								5	1	1		
GOWER	10	11	6	5			7	10	9	23	4	7
CARMARTHEN	42	39	28	20	3	3	55	97	104	61	24	6
PEMBROKE	14	18	24	5	3	2	7	13	14	27	15	15
CEREDIGION	4	1	3	2	5	1	2	6	17	9	3	6
MEIRIONNYDD	3	5	2	1		1	10	3	13	1	1	6
CAERNARFON	42	36	35	20	1	5	18	57	62	77	67	52
ANGLESEY	24	29	18	2	2	4	5	26	42	46	20	32
DENBIGH	8	2	8	3		1	8	14	20	15	9	9
FLINT	6	12	12	9	2	3	27	39	50	48	13	9

2020 GWENT, amended:

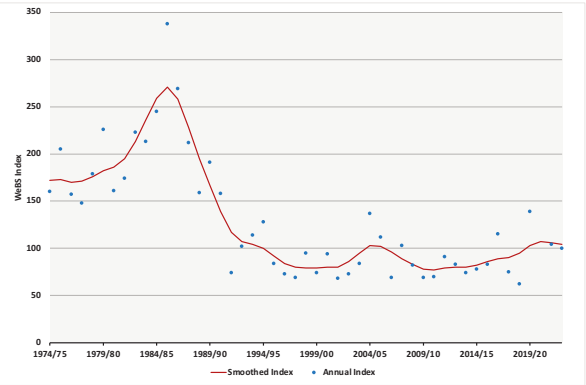
Greenshank	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT			1		2		2	13	5	1		

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* CWTIAD TRAETH

Localised passage migrant and winter visitor, 66% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	1174	1217
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	4%

Wetland Bird Survey: Turnstone in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



The smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index has been stable for 30 years, but was 61% lower than its peak in the mid-1980s. The January count on the lower Conwy estuary was the highest this century. Red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long term (-89%) and medium term (-78%) on the Burry Inlet SPA, although the autumn counts at Burry Port were the highest for some years. The BirdTrack reporting rate hit a new low, and the 2021-23 mean is 27% lower than 2013-15.

Counts ≥50 additional to table on p.92. GOWER: 61 at Mumbles Pier on 2 Jan.; 57 at Tawe est. on 7 Feb.; 75 on Swansea beach on 31 March and 47 here on 8 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 200 at Pwll on 19 March and 52 here on 4 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 50 on Seiont est. on 1 Nov.; FLINT: 52 at Greenfield Dock on 22 Nov.

Sites with ≥50 Turnstone		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Nash & Goldcliff Pill	56	25	56	19	11	1	1	2	6		25	5
E.GLAMORGAN	Newton Point	44	32	23	12	1			12	69	38	37	33
	Sker Point/Rest Bay	20	104	1	7				5	36	73	47	87
GOWER	Mumbles	61	6						3	6	13	20	47
	Whiteford	54	20	27				3	10	110		70	30
CARMARTHEN	Burry Port			20		6			15	64	222	406	
CEREDIGION	Llanrhystud area			17		2		14	32	82	40	52	40
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			23	25	24	1	9	90	98	97		
	Foryd	180	45	70	11				33	82	140	120	90
	Traeth Lafan	190	76	172	42	P	2	10	46	85	61	100	93
	Llandudno	124	70	25	P				2	4	1	2	78
	Penrhyn Bay/Rhos Pt	16	70	24	38	20	19	84	110	195	180	45	100
	lower Conwy estuary	367	152	300	107				1	6	96	62	227
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch Bay	25	13	3		1	2	2		25	60	28	59
	Menai Strait (east)	20		115	30				18	63		62	
DENBIGH	Horton's Nose NR	233	134	51	1977	15	7	2	114	530	306	268	163
	Rhyl Marine Lake	2	2	1	20					P	6	200	311

2020 GWENT, amended:

Sites with ≥50 Turnstone		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Nash & Goldcliff Pill	54	40	7		1		14	15	10	22	30	30

Knot (Ed Betteridge)

KNOT *Calidris canutus* PIBYDD YR ABER

Locally common winter visitor to some estuaries, but scarce elsewhere. Also passage migrant, but rare inland. Red WeBS alert: -50% for medium term and -55% for short term. Wales Amber listed.

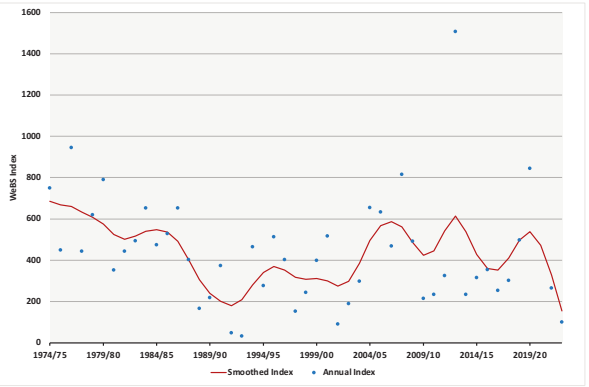
	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	447	686
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The Wetland Bird Survey annual index was at its lowest for more than 20 years. The peak counts on the Welsh side of the Dee estuary and Burry Inlet, the two most important sites, were around

half the five-year average in 2022/23, and those in Carmarthen Bay and the Welsh side of the Severn estuary were more than 85% lower. A red WeBS alert (-52%) for the medium term and amber alerts for the short (-40%) and long (-33%) terms have been issued for the Burry Inlet SPA and Amber alerts have been issued for the short (-40%), medium (-31%) and long (-40%) term on the Dee estuary SPA.

It is surprising, therefore, that BirdTrack encounters were the highest ever, and the three-year mean is 19% above that in 2013-15.

Wetland Bird Survey: Knot in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Sites with ≥300 Knot		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER	Burry Inlet – south	10	1100	250	22	7	24	2	34	332	260	67	2
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd/M Bacas	104		200	44	23	4	11	105	2000	320	P	
ANGLESEY	Traeth Melynog	520	129	8								230	401
FLINT	CQNR/Oakenholt	450	150	260	60	95	140	400	429	600	6200	400	50
	Point of Ayr/Talacre	300	50	150		80	1000	12	9	100	2000	2000	800

Counts >300 elsewhere. GWENT: 369 at Caldicot Pill on 12 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 772 at Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt on 19 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: >650 roosted on Glaslyn Marshes on 28 Nov. and 600 here on 15 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 1000 at Black Rock Sands on 22 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 2000 at Ynys Llanddwyn on 29 Dec.

RUFF *Calidris pugnax* PIBYDD TORCHOG

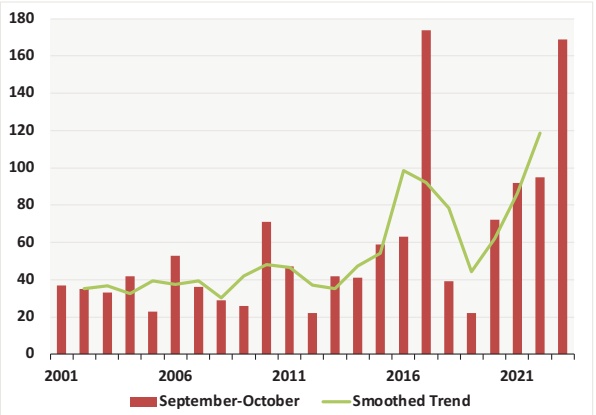
Localised passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	511	706
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

An above average year, illustrated in both the aggregated maxima in each recording area during September/October and the BirdTrack reporting rate; that was the highest ever and the three-year mean was more than double the average for 2013-15.

Counts ≥5 included in the table on p.94. GWENT: 11 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 4-5 May, max. 15 here in Aug. (on 29th) and 16 in Sept. (2nd); CARMARTHEN: seven at Penclacwydd on 23 Aug., 17 here on 10

Ruff: max. monthly count in each county in Sept.-Oct., 2001-23



Ruff: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT			1	4	13		1	17	30	1		
E.GLAMORGAN	1							1			1	
GOWER	2			4				1	1		1	
CARMARTHEN	3	2	2	1	4		4	11	28	8	8	3
PEMBROKE			3	4			1	1	4	5	1	
CEREDIGION			2	1	8		1		4	1		
BRECON				1								
RADNOR				3								
CAERNARFON			2					6	21	3		
ANGLESEY	2	2	4	3	1	1		18	34	4	3	
DENBIGH				2			1	2	11	5		
FLINT			1	4			5	2	9	35	1	

Sept., six on 16th and 18-20 Nov.; CAERNARFON: six at Traeth Crugan on 26 Aug.; nine on Glaslyn Marshes on 15-16 Sept.; ANGLESEY: eight at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24 Aug., six here on 2 Sept. and seven on 26th; five at Cemlyn on 2 Sept.; FLINT: 30 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool on 24 Oct.

2020 GWENT, correction: total for Aug. was three, not 12.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Calidris falcinellus* PIBYDD LLYDANBIG

Rare vagrant breeding in northern Scandinavia and Russia, on BBRC list. WBRC: 11 previous records.

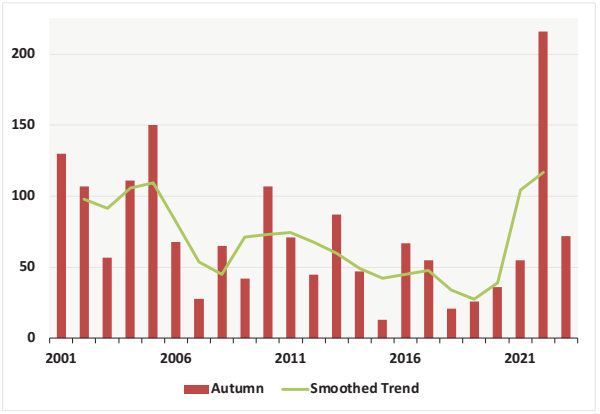
ANGLESEY: 2CY+ on Inland Sea from 31 May to 2 June, the third island record.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* PIBYDD CAMBIG

Uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	572	207
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Curlew Sandpiper: monthly max. by season in each county 2001-23



A return to fairly typical numbers after the best year of the century so far, in 2022.

Counts ≥5 included in the table. GOWER: 21 at Weobley on 21 Sept. and 15 here on 1 Oct.; five at Castell Ddu on 2 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: min. nine at Penclacwydd on 17 Sept.; PEMBROKE: five on Dale airfield on 20 Sept. and nine here on 21st; CEREDIGION: six at Ynyslas on 13 Sept.; ANGLESEY: five at Malltraeth Cob on 2 Sept., seven here (with another four on the adjacent Cefni est.) on 13th and six on 29th; five at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 28 Sept. and seven here on 1 Oct.

Curlew Sandpiper: totals	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
GWENT	1				5	10	1	
E.GLAMORGAN	1					2	1	
GOWER		2				23	29	1
CARMARTHEN						20	2	
PEMBROKE					1	25		
CEREDIGION		1	1			10		
CAERNARFON						7	1	
ANGLESEY		1		1		26	10	
DENBIGH					1	5	3	
FLINT					3	7		

2020 GWENT, additional record: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 18 Oct.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* PIBYDD TEMMINCK

Scarce passage migrant, usually in spring. WBRC: 66 previous records.

GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 18 May.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Calidris subruficollis* PIBYDD BRONLLWYD

Scarce transatlantic visitor. WBRC: 76 previous records.

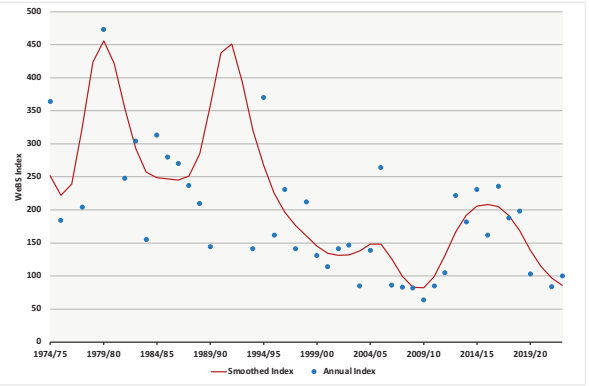
PEMBROKE: Dale airfield and Gann est. on 9-15 Sept.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Winter visitor, locally fairly common on sandy beaches in Flintshire and South Wales. Passage migrant on the coast but scarce inland. Amber WeBS alerts: -42% for short-term and -45% for medium term. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	407	397
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Sanderling in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



The ten-year reprieve from the long-term decline in Sanderling numbers seems to be over, the Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index falling close to the low value of 2009/10. That state of affairs contrasts with the index for the whole of Britain, which reached a record high in 2022-23.

Sites with ≥50 Sanderling		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	Newton Pt & beach	200	49	2	24	14			10	30	33		5
	Sker Pt & Pink Bay	150	150		1	10	100	66	136	300	150	78	38
GOWER	Aberafan Beach	300	300	386	600	220			54	8	230	720	400
	Neath est./Crymlyn	300	570	435	100	20				2	120	331	300
	Margam Sands	80		23	450			50	269		136	80	
	Port Talbot harbour	100	2	60	200							50	
CARMARTHEN	Burry Port/Pembrey		120	P	450	300	60	300	150	35	150	1	
	Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	300	1000		150	300		200	900	75	5		
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary		2		3	105	19	5	20	1		1	
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	P			P	70	31		4	2			
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	8	40	P	10	6	52	7	13	50	P	17	21
CAERNARFON	Lower Conwy est. estuary	100	120	90	70	4				15	56	58	55
DENBIGH	Horton's Nose	31	63	21	1			1		8	5	2	22
FLINT	Gronant/Point of Ayr	65	85	80	13	30	50	2	50	110	142	180	22

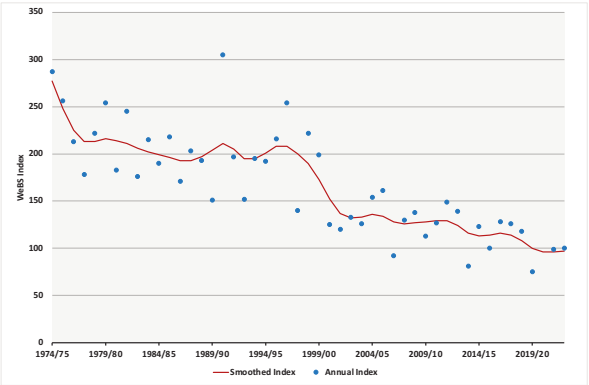
Flocks ≥50 elsewhere. GOWER: 110 at Oxwich on 15 Jan.; 249 at Swansea on 24 Jan. and 108 here on 12 Feb.; 100 at Rhossili on 12 April; 140 at Whiteford on 28 April; MEIRIONNYDD: on the Dwyryd est., 55 at Ynys on 22 Jan. and 203 at Ynys Gifftan on 18 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 70 on Dwyfor est. on 29 April; 220 at Traeth Crugan on 29 Sept.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* PIBYDD MAWN

Scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few blanket bogs with scattered pools. Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber WeBS alert: -44% long-term, the highest of any UK country. 94% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2300	2260
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%

Wetland Bird Survey: Dunlin in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Breeding. BRECON: pair on blanket bog in the Black Mountains at *c*.800m asl on 16 May; RADNOR: two sites occupied in Elenydd in April.

Non-breeding: the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index remains at an all-time low, 68% below its 1974/75 baseline. Amber WeBS alerts have been issued for short (-26%) and long (-41%) term declines in Burry Inlet SPA. Numbers have fallen by 37% on the Welsh side of the Severn since the turn of the century. The only major site in Wales to see an increase since the turn of the century was Beddmanarch-Cymyran. Numbers on the Dee estuary in January totalled over 26,600, the site's highest for 20 years, although FLINT's contribution to this was modest.

Sites with ≥1000 Dunlin		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Nash & Goldcliff Pill	5000	5000	400	46	350	120	130	100	250	500	2412	800
	St Brides	1550	450	10	9	31	2		1	50	17	50	682
	Caldicot Pill	5100	3000		120			137	173	508	300	3000	3750
E.GLAMORGAN	Rumney Great Wharf	50	150	80									1500
GOWER	Wernffrwd-Weobley	300	104		221	12			138	1200	700	160	1800
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	645	1000	184	40	200	80	29	40	30	126	1362	2400
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	234	180	163	100	440	700	9	240	1000	120	406	220
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	2225	2514	1512		4	3	144	130	70	510	1690	3390
	Lower Conwy est.	>1500	1033	503		18				8	23	260	508
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymryran	970	650	195		P	15	16	13	219	100	786	1200
FLINT	Point of Ayr/Talacre	1000	250	1250	1500	100	20	3	350	300	1000	3700	3900
	Gronant	365	340	290	440			27		113	1000	42	
	CQNR/Oakenholt	7500	3000	1500	400	200		25	230	50	600	1100	8000

Counts ≥1000 elsewhere. ANGLESEY: >2000 on Cefni est. on 9 Dec.; FLINT: 2000 at Flint Marsh on 18 Nov.

2020 GWENT, amendment and additional records:

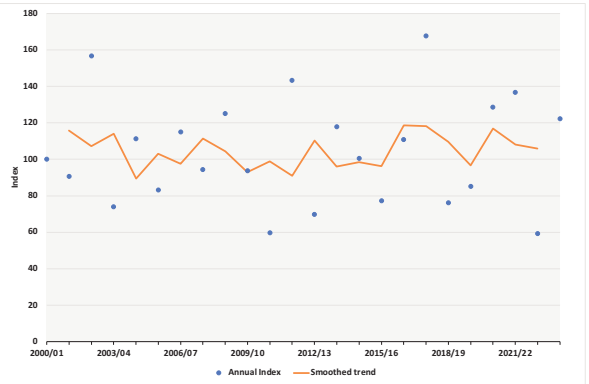
Sites with ≥1000 Dunlin		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Undy foreshore	3000	1000					6	100	322	200	1000	578
	Newport Wetlands	2000	1000	20	110		32	608	310	415	155	1000	330
	Peterstone Wentlooge	1600	450	15	35			4	150	300	1000	800	2000

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* PIBYDD DU

Localised winter visitor in small numbers to rocky shorelines. Red WeBS alerts: -51% medium term and amber alert (-42%) for short-term, but long-term is +96%. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	191	167
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Index of peak counts from sites holding ≥10 Purple Sandpiper in Wales since 2000/01



There is no Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, but that for the whole of the UK is half that of the late 1980s. The most recent Non-estuarine Waterbird Survey (NEWS) in 2015/16 found 75% fewer Purple Sandpipers in Wales than in 1984/85, and estimated the wintering population to be 41 birds. However, both surveys are snapshots, and numbers can vary greatly at any site between tidal cycles and years. An index of all sites that recorded 10 birds more than once since 2000 suggests relatively little change overall. The BirdTrack reporting rate was below average, and despite a higher rate in 2022, the three-year mean was 42% below that for 2013-15.

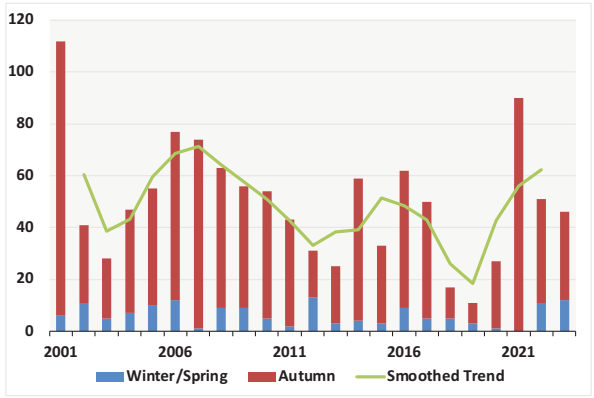
Sites with ≥10 Purple Sandpipers		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	Porthcawl Pt-Rest Bay	24	31		6				4	3
GOWER	Port Talbot harbour	4	6	15	17	5			3	3
PEMBROKE	Broad Haven	6	4	5					2	10
CEREDIGION	Aberystwyth	4	7	4	9			1	7	12
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			14	21	32		20	28	
	Rhos/Penrhyn Bay	8	9	7				1	7	15
ANGLESEY	Cemlyn	19	17	13	2	4		2	15	10
	Trearddur Bay	8	17	7					27	15

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* PIBYDD BACH

Uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn. Rare inland. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	233	181
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Little Stint: sum of max. in each county, 2001-23



Another comparatively good spring but numbers were below average in autumn.

Spring passage: GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21-22 May and singles here on 29th and 1-6 June; E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Sands on 12 June; BRECON: three at Llangorse Lake on 28 May was the largest ever flock in the county; MEIRIONNYDD: two on Artro est. on 19 May; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 25 May; two at Malltraeth Cob on 29-31 May; three on Inland Sea on 30-31 May and two here on 1-2 June; Beddmanarch Bay on 4 June; possibly same, Alaw est. on 6 June.

Autumn passage involved a min. 48 individuals (*cf*. 60 in 2022), below the 30-year average (n=90). All were singles unless stated. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 19-23 Aug., two here on 29th and 2-4 Sept., one on 6-7th, two on 8-9th, three on 10-11th, four on 13th, five on 16th, four on 17th-21st and singles on 22nd and 2 Oct.; Peterstone Wentlooge on 2 Sept.; GOWER: Castell Ddu on 15-16 Sept.; Weobley on 21 Sept. and two here on 1 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: singles, estimated to total four, at Penclacwydd between 10 Sept. and 13 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Angle Bay on 16 and 23-25 Sept.; Little Milford on 17 Sept.; Dale airfield on 19 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Borth on 12 Sept.; RSPB Ynys-hir on 19 Sept.; Ynyslas on 20-21 Sept. and two here on 28th and 5 Oct.; RADNOR: Llowes on 18 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Penrhos floods on 25-26 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Cefni est. on 28 Aug.; Cymyran est. on 6 Sept.; three at Malltraeth Cob on 20 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 19-23 Aug., two here on 29th and one on 14-20 Sept.; Clwyd est. on 18-20 Sept., two here on 21st and singles on 27th and 3 Oct.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 24 Aug.; Gronant on 28 Aug.; RSPB Pt of Ayr on 15 Sept.; Talacre on 12 Oct.; RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 6 Nov.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* PIBYDD CAIN

Scarce vagrant from North America and Siberia. WBRC: 152 previous records.

GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 13-20 July and 7-19 Sept.; GOWER: Castell Ddu on 22-23 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 30-31 May; CAERNARFON: Morfa Madryn NR on 21 Sept.; Penrhos floods on 25 Sept.; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 29 April and a second bird sporadically from 29 Aug. to 27 Sept.; Alaw est. on 13 Sept.

BRIDLED TERN *Onychoprion anaethetus* MOR-WENNOL FFRWYNOG

Extremely rare vagrant from the tropics. BBRC: two previous records.

CAERNARFON: Hafan y Môr, Penychain, on 6-9 Aug., the first county record and third for Wales.

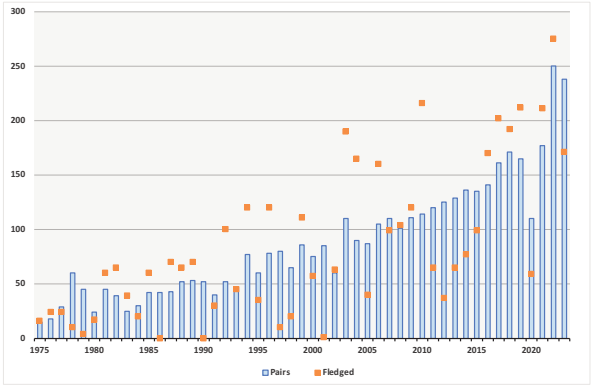
Little Tern (Tommy Evans)

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* MOR-WENNOL FACH

Breeds in Flintshire. RBBP: 275 young fledged from 251 nests at three sites in 2022. Elsewhere, uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant to other coasts. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	85	75
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Little Tern pairs and fledged young (Gronant 1975-2023 and RSPB Point of Ayr 2019-23)



Although numbers were slightly lower than 2022, the 238 pairs were nonetheless the second-best year for nests in Wales in more than a century. Gronant was the largest colony in Britain & Ireland and, with Point of Ayr, held almost 15% of the total population recorded (19% of the UK total). Combined breeding productivity at the two sites, at 0.72 chicks per nest, was marginally below the minimum for population viability (0.74). Predation by Kestrel accounted for the lower productivity rate at Gronant, and by a single Carrion Crow incident on one night at Point of Ayr. Mercifully, there was no evidence of HPAI at either colony. The Wetland Bird Survey index, which in Wales is comprised almost exclusively from the Dee estuary of which Gronant is a part, reached a record high.

Breeding. FLINT: 212 AON at Gronant (*cf*. 211 nests in 2022) fledged min. 155 young (0.73/nest) (Smith *et al.* 2023); 26 AON at RSPB Pt of Ayr (*cf*. 39 in 2022) fledged 16 young (0.62/nest).

Earliest and latest dates in each county of occurrence.

Little Tern	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
CARMARTHEN	3 May	Cefn Sidan	24 Aug.	Cefn Sidan
PEMBROKE	no spring records		20 Aug.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	no spring records		19 Aug.	Ynyslas
MEIRIONNYDD	no spring records		19 Aug.	Artro estuary
CAERNARFON	no spring records		**25 Sept.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	11 June	Cemlyn	22 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	4 May	Conwy estuary	20 Aug.	Kinmel Bay
FLINT	**23 April**	**Gronant & Pt of Ayr**	6 Sept.	Gronant

All other records (max. site counts only in Flintshire), singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: Pembrey harbour on 6 Aug.; PEMBROKE: eight passed Strumble Head on 19 Aug., four here on 20th and two on other dates; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: seven in Teifi est. on 8 Aug.; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 18 Aug.; three at Ynyslas on 18-19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Rhos Pt on 17 July; Afonwen on 23 July; Criccieth on 27 July; Bardsey on 22 Aug. and 25 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 13 June, 1 and 12 Aug., and two here on 22 Sept.; Moelfre on 20 Sept.; Pt Lynas on 21 Sept.; FLINT: 450 at Gronant on 9 July; 50 at Pt of Ayr on 18 June and 16 July.

Colour-ringing: 22 individuals were identified at Gronant through observations of roosting birds at high tide, and a further 112 through examination of video filmed within the fenced colony. The majority had been ringed at Gronant in previous years, with a small number from colonies in the Republic of Ireland. A colour-ringed adult (XZJ), ringed as a chick at Kilcoole in Ireland in 2008, lost its brood at Gronant and moved to Point of Ayr where it made a second breeding attempt. From Smith *et al.* 2023.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica* MOR-WENNOL YLFINBRAFF

Rare visitor from southern Europe. BBRC list: 20 previous records.

GOWER/CARMARTHEN: Morfa Bacas and Loughor est. on 7 June; FLINT: RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool on 19 April.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* MOR-WENNOL GAWRAIDD

Rare visitor, breeding no closer than the northern Baltic Sea. BBRC: 14 previous records.

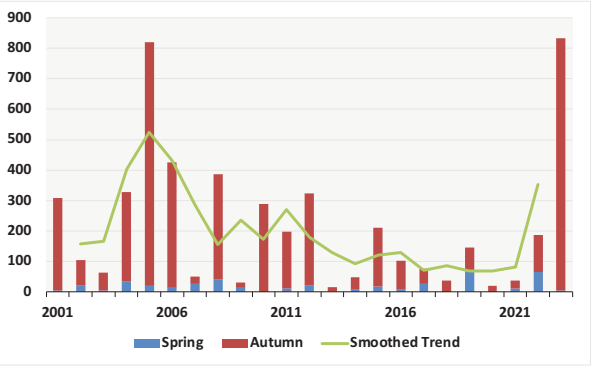
CARMARTHEN: 3CY+ at Burry Port harbour on 11 May, the third county record.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* CORSWENNOL DDU

Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties but also on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are substantial influxes in some years. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	84	75
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Black Tern: all records, 2001-23



A huge movement over the weekend of 18-20 August brought records from every recording area bar two landlocked counties, contributing to the highest total in Wales since at least 1992, and most likely ever. The previous large influxes, in 1997 and 2005, were centred on Pembrokeshire, where Strumble Head still holds the site day record of 536 on 31 August 2005. Northwest Wales accounted for more than half the total in 2023.

Black Tern: totals	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT		1			11		
E.GLAMORGAN					4	2	
GOWER					2		
CARMARTHEN					1		
PEMBROKE					321	7	5
CEREDIGION					17	3	
BRECON					3		
MEIRIONNYDD					23		
CAERNARFON					233	3	
ANGLESEY			2		177	11	
DENBIGH					4		
FLINT	1		2		1		

Notable counts in the table above. PEMBROKE: 259 passed Strumble Head on 19 Aug. and 34 on 20th; MEIRIONNYDD: 21 off Traeth Harlech on 19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 65 off Criccieth and >70 at Rhos Pt (county

record) on 19 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 22 off Amlwch on 19 Aug.; 25 off Pt Lynas on 20 Aug.; 29 off Traeth Lligwy on 21 Aug.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* MOR-WENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Four colonies, all on Anglesey: 3978 AON (+133% since 2000). Passage migrant to other coasts. Scarce inland. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	184	292
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

A marked reduction in numbers at two sites as a result of HPAI that was evident from early in the season, but numbers at the largest colony in the UK, on The Skerries, were similar to those in 2022, so the national reduction was only *c.*10%. The disease also restricted monitoring effort, particularly on The Skerries where RSPB Cymru made the difficult decision to withdraw the residential wardens during the season and made productivity estimates from a sample of nests counted during short visits.

Arctic Tern: Apparently Occupied Nests		*AON count*		*Fledged young/AON*	*Mean productivity*
		2023	*2022*		
ANGLESEY	Cemlyn	45-70	240-260	40-60	0.17-0.29
	The Skerries	2929	2930	sample count	0.74
	west Anglesey site	216	369	31*	0.087*
	Inland Sea	2		unknown	

*productivity estimates are combined with Common Tern.

Non-breeding counts ≥10. PEMBROKE: 23 passed Strumble Head on 19 Aug. and 18 here on 20th; CEREDIGION: 28 at Ynyslas on 18 Aug. and 12 here on 19th; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 off Llandanwg on 19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 50 at Afonwen on 9 Aug.; >10 off Bardsey on nine dates in Aug. and Sept., inc. 142 on 19 Aug. and 572 on 22nd that was the third highest island count ever; DENBIGH: 15 at Kinmel Bay on 20 Aug.; FLINT: 26 at Gronant on 4 May.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Arctic Tern	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	20 April	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)	2 Oct.	Llandegfedd Reservoir
E.GLAMORGAN	**12 April**	**Cardiff Bay**	19 Sept.	Porthcawl
GOWER	13 April	Margam Sands	1 Sept.	Loughor estuary
CARMARTHEN	6 May	Cefn Sidan	28 Aug.	Pembrey harbour
PEMBROKE	**12 April**	**Goodwick harbour**	14 Oct.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	13 April	New Quay	20 Sept.	Mwnt
BRECON	16 April	Llangorse Lake	no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	no spring records		5 Sept.	Barmouth
CAERNARFON	no spring records		23 Oct.	Rhos Point
ANGLESEY	22 April	Cemlyn	**12 Nov.**	**Moelfre**
DENBIGH	5 May	Conwy estuary	21 Aug.	Rhos-on-Sea
FLINT	4 May	Gronant	27 Oct.	Connah's Quay NR

The first in E.GLAMORGAN was a day earlier than the previous earliest this century, in 2013, and that in PEMBROKE was six days earlier than in 2018.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* MOR-WENNOL GYFFREDIN

Localised breeder: 850 AON (+21% since 2000). Passage migrant to other coasts and sometimes inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	282	416
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

As for several other tern species, HPAI devastated colonies with regular monitoring, including the largest in Flintshire. The national total was around 30% lower than in 2022, although dedicated monitoring of the Inland Sea by RSPB Cymru for the first time in 20 years provided a site total that has no recent comparison. The disease also made it impossible to make any meaningful assessment of productivity at most sites, but the consensus is that it was generally poor.

Common Tern: Apparently Occupied Nests		*AON count*		*Fledged young/AON*	*Mean productivity*
		2023	*2022*		
ANGLESEY	Cemlyn	65-80	120-150	30-50	0.38-0.77
	The Skerries	300	350	HPAI prevented monitoring	
	west Anglesey site	138	60	31*	0.087*
	Inland Sea	45			
FLINT	Shotton steelworks	171†	410	40	0.23

* productivity estimates are combined with Arctic Tern.

† estimate uncertain because eggs were scattered by sick birds. 320 adults died of HPAI on site (approx. 40% of the population).

Non-breeding. The BirdTrack reporting rate was its highest to date, but otherwise has been pretty stable for the last decade. Site maxima ≥10 away from colonies. GOWER: 22 at Penclawdd on 30 Aug. and 49 here on 1 Sept.; 12 at Wernffrwd on 1 Sept.; GOWER/CARMARTHEN: *c.*70 in Loughor est. on 1 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 20 off Pembrey Burrows on 16 Aug.; 10 off Tywyn Pt on 18 Aug.; >10 in Pembrey harbour on six dates during 17-30 Aug. (max. 104 on 29th); 31 at Kidwelly Marsh on 31 Aug.; 50 at Cefn Sidan on 1 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 12 passed Strumble Head on 20 Aug., 10 on 27th and 20 on 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 60 at Ynyslas on 18 Aug. and 20 here on 19th; 11 off Mwnt on 30 Aug. and on 12 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 off Llandanwg on 19 Aug.; 12 in mouth of Dwyryd est. on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: max. 320 at Afonwen on 9 Aug.; 42 off Bardsey on 21 Aug., 32 here on 22nd and 34 on 25 Oct.; 10 from Bangor Pier on 29 Aug.; 11 off Criccieth on 20 Sept.; 10 at Wig, near Aber, on 7 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 15 off Pt Lynas on 20 Sept.; 20 at Traeth Lligwy on 1 Oct. and Traeth Coch on 3rd; DENBIGH: 14 in Conwy est. on 23 April; 58 at Horton's Nose-Kinmel Bay on 20 Aug.; FLINT: site max. 40 at Connah's Quay NR on 23 July; 28 at Gronant on 4 May; 12 at Shotwick Lake on 2 Aug.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Common Tern	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	31 May	Collister Pill	22 July	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	**30 March**	**Lisvane Reservoir**	**19 Oct.**	**Lisvane Reservoir**
GOWER	12 April	Bracelet Bay	26 Sept.	Baglan Bay
CARMARTHEN	5 May	Cefn Sidan	15 Sept.	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	4 April	Broad Haven	14 Oct.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	13 April	New Quay	20 Sept.	Mwnt
BRECON	13 April	Llangorse Lake	6 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	28 April	Glasbury	25 Aug.	Glasbury
MEIRIONNYDD	11 April	Artro est.	15 Sept.	Dwyryd estuary mouth
CAERNARFON	11 April	Criccieth	9 Oct.	Bangor Pier & Bardsey
ANGLESEY	6 April	Menai Strait	**19 Oct.**	**Beddmanarch Bay**
DENBIGH	2 April	Llanddulas	3 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	17 April	Connah's Quay NR	6 Sept.	Gronant

Inland, additional to the table: BRECON: one at Llangorse Lake in June, 22 here in Aug. (inc. 16 on 18th) and one from 21 Sept. to 6 Oct.

The last in E.GLAMORGAN was a day later than the previous latest this century, in 2007. The first of the year on ANGLESEY equalled the earliest this century, in 2019, and that in DENBIGH was 18 days earlier than the first in 2013.

2020 GWENT: three at Sudbrook on 29 April were the earliest of the year.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* MOR-WENNOL WRIDOG

Occasional breeder on Anglesey. RBBP: one pair fledged one young in 2022. Uncommon passage visitor to other coasts. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	24	59
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season. ANGLESEY: 1 AON on The Skerries, but failed during HPAI outbreak; 1-2 at Cemlyn between 1 May and 31 July (and three reported on 28 June) but no evidence of breeding.

All other records, singles unless stated. CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 17 May; PEMBROKE: three off Strumble Head in autumn, inc. two on 18 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 19 Aug. and two here on 19 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Traeth Abererch near Pwllheli on 1 July; Afonwen on 29 Aug.; Bardsey on 18 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two off Penmon Pt on 19 July; FLINT: Prestatyn on 11 July; Gronant on 10 and 16 Aug.

Roseate X Common Tern

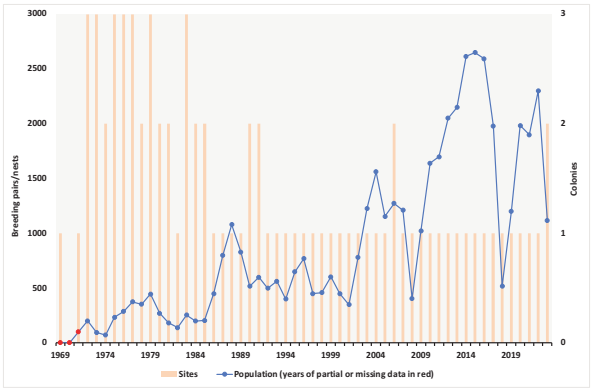
ANGLESEY: presumed hybrid at Cemlyn on several dates during the summer.

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis* MOR-WENNOL BIGDDU

One established breeding site (max. 2650 AON in 2015). Passage migrant to most coastal areas. Scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	845	1022
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

Sandwich Tern colonies and nests in Wales, 1969-2023



It is the first year since 2006 that figures are available from more than one colony, thanks to RSPB Cymru employing a warden on Anglesey's Inland Sea in response to a local birdwatcher recording evidence of breeding in 2022. HPAI caused a reduction of around half in the size of the long-established colony at Cemlyn, and given the numbers of young that died it seems remarkable that productivity was not even lower.

Breeding numbers and productivity (young/AON): ANGLESEY: 900-1100 AON at Cemlyn (*cf.* 2200-2400 in 2022) fledged 400-500 (0.36-0.56), but at least 68 adults and 643 chicks died of HPAI; 118 AON on the Inland Sea fledged min. 71 (0.6).

Non-breeding: HPAI had not been evident at Cemlyn in summer 2022, but the virus may have been passed on by birds from colonies affected farther north and east as birds roosted together on passage or in their West African wintering grounds. Despite this, the BirdTrack reporting rate and peak counts in Liverpool Bay were above average, but the number of colour-ringed sightings on the North Wales coast made by a co-ordinated reporting project was more than 90% lower than in 2021 reflecting the suspension of colour-ringing at all UK colonies in June 2022 and its prohibition in 2023.

Sandwich Tern: site maxima		*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
CARMARTHEN	Pembrey harbour		6	4	39	391	266	2
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	100	4	1	42	480	427	2
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	20	80	50	147	180	>300	60
	Rhos Point	50	70	12	253	612	207	22
	Bardsey	3	4	10	2	63	94	4
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	29	295	59	660	307	60	
FLINT	Point of Ayr	1	100	3	10	300	6	
	Gronant		100	10	17	260	163	

Counts ≥50 elsewhere. GOWER: 40 at Port Eynon on 19 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 49 off Cefn Sidan on 15 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 100 passed Pen Anglas on 19 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 56 at Aberystwyth on 22 April; 133 off Mwnt on 30 Aug.; 58 at Llanon on 6 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 128 in Artro est. on 27 July, 130 on 9 Aug. and 550 passed here on 19th; *c.*100 off Llwyngwril on 10 Aug.; 440 in mouth of Dwyryd est. on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 250 at Fort Belan on 9 April; max. 500 at Afonwen on 9 Aug.; 220 at Criccieth on 20 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 150 at Traeth Lleiniog on 29 April; 250 in Cefni est. in July and Aug.; FLINT: 150 at Connah's Quay NR on 7 May.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in E.GLAMORGAN).

Sandwich Tern	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
E.GLAMORGAN	16 April	Porthcawl	17 Oct.	Sker Point
GOWER	22 March	Oxwich Bay	6 Nov.	Crymlyn Burrows
CARMARTHEN	28 March	Pembrey harbour	9 Oct.	Pembrey harbour
PEMBROKE	25 March	Gann estuary	11 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	3 April	Ynyslas	8 Oct.	Aberporth
RADNOR	28 April	Llandrindod Wells	no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	7 April	Mochras	19 Oct.	Llandanwg
CAERNARFON	16 March	Aber Ogwen	19 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	**9 March**	**Beddmanarch Bay**	**8 Nov.**	**Beddmanarch Bay**
DENBIGH	27 March	Llanddulas	13 Oct.	Rhos-on-Sea
FLINT	9 April	Rhyl	28 Sept.	Point of Ayr

The first in RADNOR, a county that does not record the species every year, was nine days ahead of the previous earliest this century, on 7 May 2003. It was sound-recorded overnight, a practice that has revealed several records in recent years. The last in MEIRIONNYDD was the latest county record since 1985.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* GWYLAN FECHAN

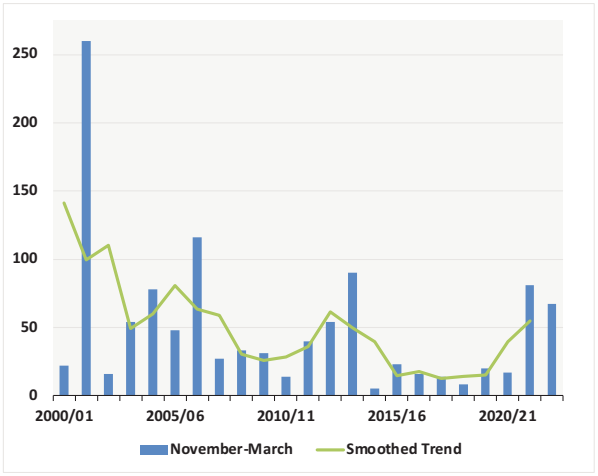
Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	187	141
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The number of Little Gulls overwintering within sight of the Welsh coast was above the recent average. The total for the year was a minimum of 227, which included 42 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), GWENT, and 15 at Berthlwyd, GOWER, on 19 April.

2020 GWENT: 2CY at Llandegfedd Res. on 7 July; 1CY at Peterstone Wentlooge on 15 Sept.

Little Gull: sum of county max. during Nov.-March, 2000/01-22/23



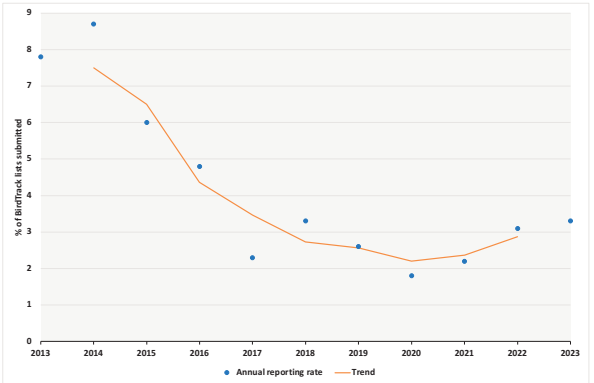
Little Gull: monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1			42								
E.GLAMORGAN	1		3	1				2	1	2		2
GOWER	3			15					1			1
CARMARTHEN			1				2	1				
PEMBROKE	1	2						35	2			
CEREDIGION	5											
MEIRIONNYDD	2	1								1		
CAERNARFON	2						1	3	21	5	8	
ANGLESEY				5	1-2			17	18	1	11	2
DENBIGH				4			1					
FLINT												1

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOESDDU

Declining breeder in coastal areas from Gower to Caernarfonshire: 4782 AON (-34% since 2000). Large numbers offshore on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	757	838
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Kittiwake in Wales 2013-23



Breeding: 3793 AON (*cf*. 4047 when the tabulated sites were last counted, -6.3%). There were increases at Mumbles Pier and three colonies in Caernarfonshire, including the highest total on Bardsey since 2007. However, most other colonies declined, including the largest on Skomer and the count on Ramsey was the lowest total in the modern era (*cf*. 400-500 in the 1990s).

Kittiwake: Apparently Occupied Nests		*2023*	*2022 unless stated*
GOWER	Mumbles Pier	285	*c*.90 (2018)
PEMBROKE	St Margaret's Island	208	226
	Skomer	1291	1544
	Grassholm	46	45
	Ramsey	28	46
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	234	230
	St Tudwal's East	161	183 (2019)
	Trwyn Cilan	97	46 (2019)
	Carreg y Llam	724	614 (2021)
	Great Orme	564	780
	Little Orme	28	95
ANGLESEY	Puffin Island	127	148

Other occupied breeding sites. GOWER: Worm's Head (150 present on 3 July); CEREDIGION: New Quay; ANGLESEY: 30 individuals on Ynys Moelfre on 20 March.

Nest productivity (young/breeding pair). PEMBROKE: 0.37 on Skomer, below the average for the last five years (0.67) (Newman *et al*. 2023); CAERNARFON: *c*.195 fledged from 234 AON on Bardsey (0.83), 16% above the 10-year mean (*cf*. 0.69 in 2022).

Kittiwake: site maxima		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER	Mumbles Pier/Head	1	60	270	290	450	504	520	168	21			
PEMBROKE	Skokholm			11	76	587	445	230	135	127	210	410	
	Strumble Head	400		100		50	50	500	900	1000	200	1	1
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			185	150	300	520	330	979	1517	1520		
	Great Orme	40	76	170	200	120	750	150	200	1		1	
	Little Orme-Rhos Pt	100	35	2	86	26	46	526	373	56	5	121	16
ANGLESEY	Point Lynas						21	6	400	500	3	1000	100
	RSPB South Stack	73	9	10	100	95	500	230	110	35			
	Cemlyn to Wylfa					6	11	4	640	185			

Notable non-breeding records. GWENT: 20 off Goldcliff Pill on 25 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 36 passed Lavernock Pt on 2 June and 25 on 3rd; CARMARTHEN: 117 at Pembrey harbour on 17 May; 300 off Cefn Sidan on 30 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 355 past St Govan's Head on 24 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 1000 off Mwnt and 400 off Aberporth on 28 Aug.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 14 Jan., 2 March and 20 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: Lake Vyrnwy on 9 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 59 in Dwyryd est. on 12 March; CAERNARFON: 300 off Ynysgain on 27 Aug.; 640 off Porth Ysgaden on 14 Nov.

2020 GWENT: 50 passed Sudbrook on 2 and 21-22 May.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini* GWYLAN SABINE

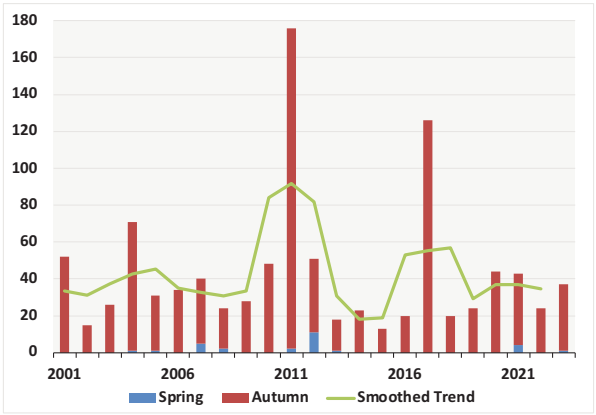
Uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	12	10
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Singles unless stated. PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 13 April, three here on 20 Aug., singles on 24th and 30th, two on 18 Sept., three on 22nd, one on 28th, and singles on 3 Oct. and 12 Nov.; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 4 Aug.; CAERNARFON: three adults off Bardsey and one passed Uwchmynydd on 22 Aug.; adult off Bardsey on 20 Sept. and 1CY on 7 Oct.; two 1CY off Criccieth on 19 Sept. and one here on 28th; 1CY at Rhos Pt on 22 Sept.; Porthor on 4 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Bull Bay on 28

Aug., 18 and 20 Sept.; two at Pt Lynas on 26 Aug., 3 and 18 Sept., singles on 19, 21 and 29 Sept.

Sabine's Gull: all records 2001-23

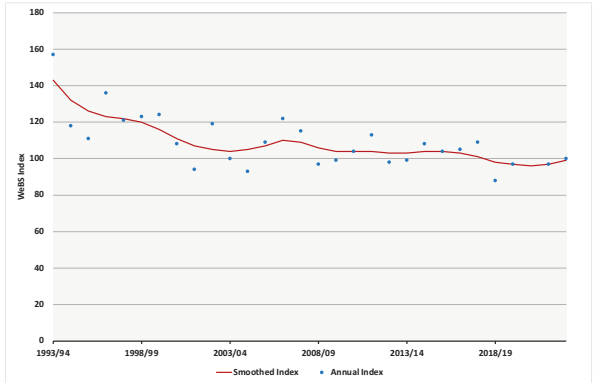


BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* GWYLAN BENDDU

Localised but declining breeding species: 1670 AON (-16% since 2000). Abundant and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	7354	7135
% of BirdTrack lists	33%	31%

Wetland Bird Survey: Black-headed Gull in Wales 1993/94-2022/23



Along with Gannet, this was the species in Wales whose breeding population was most affected by the HPAI outbreak, although a new inland colony was most welcome.

Breeding (AON unless stated) and productivity (fledged young/breeding pair). CARMARTHEN: 407 AON at Penclacwydd; BRECON: at least 14 fledged from a new colony on a farm pond at Llyswen; MONTGOMERY: colony at Llyn Coed-y-dinas devastated by HPAI (60 dead); 5 AON at Llyn Mawr; MEIRIONNYDD: 21 AON on Llyn Oerfel; 5 AON on Llyn Caer Euni; 3 AON on moored boats on Llyn Tegid may have been destroyed illegally; CAERNARFON: 2 AON at Morfa Madryn were abandoned; ANGLESEY: 200-240 AON fledged 150-200 young (0.63-1.0) at Cemlyn, but at least 23 adults and 110 chicks died of HPAI; 157 AON fledged 108 on Inland Sea (0.68) but 19 died; 2 AON at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: at least 1 AON at Fenn's Moss; FLINT: 1029 AON at Shotton before HPAI struck, killing 236 adults and 1226 chicks, reducing numbers fledged to 75-100 (<0.1 young/AON, *cf.* 1.53 during 2015-22); 18 AON at Connah's Quay NR; bred on Flintshire part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, but badly affected by HPAI.

Non-breeding: any impact of HPAI across northwest Europe will not be apparent until 2023/24 Wetland Bird Survey data is published in 2025, but the index for Wales had already declined by 31% since 1993/94. Peak counts on the Burry Inlet have fallen by almost half in the last 10 years, but increased on the Welsh Dee and Severn estuaries, and 2022/23 saw the highest ever WeBS count on the Conwy estuary. The

BirdTrack reporting rate was lower than the previous year but similar to levels in the couple of years before the 2020 lockdown.

Sites with ≥1000 Black-headed Gull		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Peterstone Wentlooge	265	300	400	3	5	500	300	1000	1100	380	260	180
E.GLAMORGAN	Ogmore estuary	420	140	390			23	185	285	1000	94	290	195
GOWER/CARM	Loughor estuary	209	238	140	350	154	387	1055	800	679	194	124	164
PEMBROKE	Llys-y-fran Reservoir	2300	2500	119							100	1500	3100
	Cleddau estuary	1000	1700	797	20	2	25	261	100	245	401	585	1029
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	1750	250	600	5	31	62	145	12	350	87	87	320
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	1010	1235	600	7	5	2	3	26	28	35	600	110
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	380	140	373		19	45		P	1233	672	244	80
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	206	133	89	25	8	160	1646	2172	767	208	20	186
	Foryd	541	411	181	11	5	58	182	221	430	191	1211	580
FLINT	CQNR/Oakenholt	39	120	150	400	200	400	309	2000	4200	190	150	180
	Gronant	1952	275	247	83	15	4	128	200	91	314	367	256
	Point of Ayr	760	1301	190	1	3	100	500	200	600	38	274	53

Counts ≥1000 elsewhere. PEMBROKE: 1200 at Coppet Pt on 21 Dec.; DENBIGH: 1152 at Lleweni watermeadows on 23 Oct.; 1500 at Holt on 25 Nov.; FLINT: 1200 at Shotton lagoons on 23 April; 4000 on Sealand Ranges on 2 Sept. and 6000 here on 3 Oct.

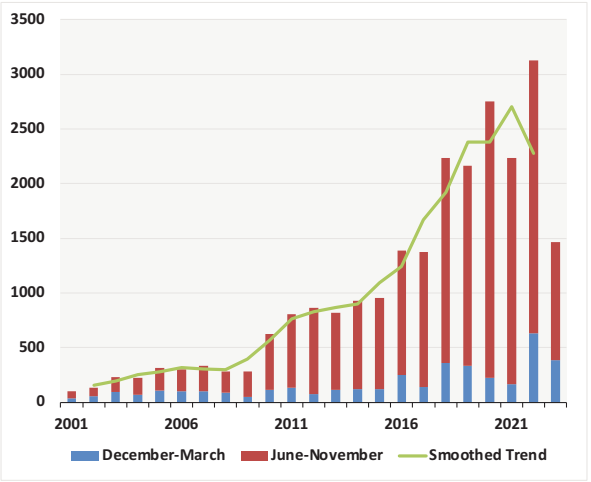
2020 GWENT, additional record: 1020 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) in July.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties, especially in late summer. Small numbers summer (RBBP: 4-5 pairs in 2022) and occasionally breed. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	918	907
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Mediterranean Gull: sum of county max. in each season, 2001-23



Breeding. CARMARTHEN: three pairs bred at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: two nests fledged three young at Cemlyn (up to 10 other birds in April/May); DENBIGH: two at Fenn's Moss on 20 April and 30 May but no evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding: there were far fewer high counts in 2023, although this may reflect reduced observer effort in Ceredigion in late summer. Bardsey, however, recorded its second highest day count of 268 on 30 Oct. The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales (not shown) was higher in 2022/23 than in the previous year, but 54% lower than in 2019/20. The BirdTrack reporting rate was identical to 2022 and the three-year mean is slightly lower than in 2013-15.

Sites with ≥30 Mediterranean Gull		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	Porthcawl to Rest Bay	20	30					11	15	21	32	19	30
GOWER	Bracelet Bay	70	27	6			2	70	62	131	95	34	12
	Blackpill	80						25	22	85	47	2	1
	Port Eynon	3	9					9	42	2	124	20	6
CARMARTHEN	Burry Inlet - north	1		5	14	11	95	208	200	141	3	1	1
PEMBROKE	Skokholm						4				26	200	13
	Gann estuary	70	39	89	10		2	3	15	5	25	73	58
CEREDIGION	Cardigan Bay coast	2	2	3	9	1	7	400	124	60	70	30	1
CAERNARFON	Afonwen							65	151	107			
	Bardsey			1	1		1	1	3	3	268		

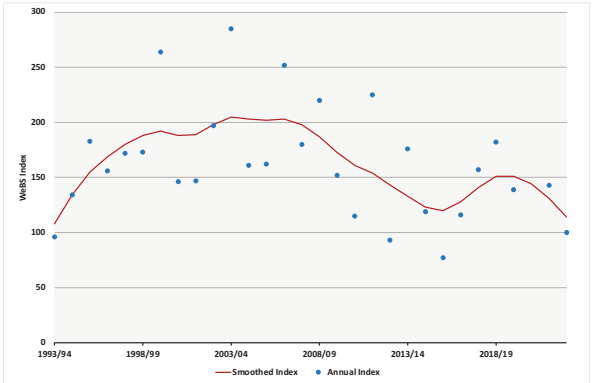
Counts ≥30 elsewhere. GOWER: 68 at Port Talbot on 28 July and 38 here on 25 Aug.; 93 in Caswell Bay on 1 Aug.; 50 at Mumbles on 4 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 45 at Broad Haven on 5 Jan.; 70 at Angle Bay on 23 July; 40 on Nevern est. on 9 Oct.; 50 on Teifi est. in Oct.; CAERNARFON: 34 at Criccieth on 19 June; 200 at Traeth Crugan on 15 Aug.; 42 at Porth Ysgaden on 25 Oct., 74 here on 26th, 48 on 27th and 33 on 14 Nov.; 100 off Aberdaron on 11 Nov.; >100 at Porthor on 29 Dec.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* GWYLAN GWEUNYDD

Fairly common winter and passage visitor, especially to northeast Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1547	1626
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Gull in Wales 1993/94-2022/23



Non-breeding: the annual Wetland Bird Survey index was below par; the smoothed index is only just above its baseline level of 1993/94, 44% below its peak of 20 years ago. The BirdTrack reporting rate is 15% lower than in 2013-15. The largest counts were in northeast Wales, although earlier in the winter than usual, and Traeth Lafan saw an influx in late summer for the second consecutive year as birds returned from their Scandinavian breeding sites.

Sites with ≥250 Common Gull		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	300	350	236	100			1		2	20	20	22
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	890	20	150	1	3		2			20		60
MEIRIONNYDD	Artro estuary	51	154	292			3			1	25	15	44
	Broadwater/Dysynni	213	477	64	7	1					1	12	362
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	30	17	20	270	57	104	170	1038	786	127	120	150
ANGLESEY	Traeth Coch	240	300	15							65	70	15
	Traeth Dulas	141	450								24	16	178
FLINT	Gronant	4200	284	800	15	5		3	53	6	500	640	430
	CQNR/Oakenholt	1	16	1000	15							39	

Counts ≥250 elsewhere. CARMARTHEN: *c.*750 at Pembrey harbour on 9 Jan.; *c.*400 at Llansteffan on 27 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 220 on Nevern est. on 6 Jan.; 500 at Coppet Pt on 21 Dec.; BRECON: 340 roosted at Llangorse Lake on 6 Feb., a high count for the site; CAERNARFON: 600 at Porthmadog on 27 April; FLINT: *c.*500 at Trelogan on 28 Nov.

2020 GWENT, additional record: 250 at Monmouth in Feb.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* GWYLAN BONTAIDD

Rare visitor from eastern Europe and central Asia. WBRC: 23 previous records.

PEMBROKE: adult on Gann est. on 8 Jan. (X290 ringed in Germany and seen regularly in west Wales since 2017); 2CY on Nevern est. on 18 March, then Teifi est. on 4-5 April (X2AP ringed in Berlin, Germany, on 12 June 2022).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* GWYLAN PENWAIG

Fairly common breeder in coastal areas: 9,815 AON at natural sites (-23% since 2000) and 13,766 AON on rooftops. Widespread in winter, including inland. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	11553	11932
% of BirdTrack lists	54%	54%

Coastal colony breeding counts: 4009-4024 AON (*cf*. 4083 at the same colonies when last counted, -2%). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

Herring Gull: Apparently Occupied Nests		2023	2022 unless stated
PEMBROKE	Caldey	1639	1736
	Castlemartin peninsula	181	133
	Middleholm	26-41	43
	Skokholm	309	309
	Skomer	278	266
	Grassholm	38	49 (2018)
	Ramsey	183	235 (2018)
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	424	378
	Ynysoedd Gwylan	77	42
ANGLESEY	The Skerries	706	641
	RSPB South Stack	148	251 (2018)

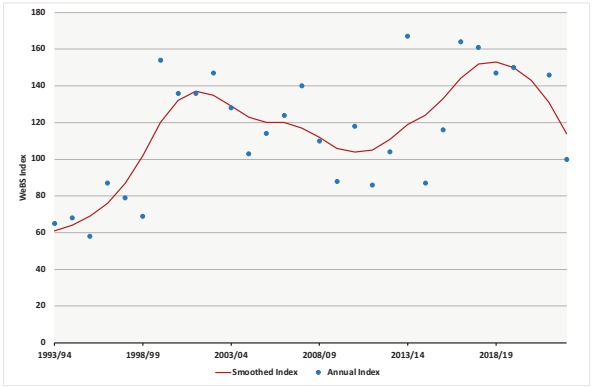
Nest productivity (young/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 109 fledged from 139 AON on Skokholm (0.78, *cf*. 0.69 from 134 AON in 2022) (Brown and Eagle 2024); 1.18 on Skomer (*cf.* 0.79 in 2022) was the highest since 1998 (Newman *et al.* 2023); CAERNARFON: 47 fledged from 131 AON on Bardsey (0.36, *cf*. 0.63 in 2022); min. 63 young fledged from 77 nests on Ynysoedd Gwylan (0.81, *cf*. 0.95 in 2022).

The only comparable assessment of rooftop nests was at Pembroke Dock Industrial Estate, PEMBROKE, where 113 AON were recorded (*cf*. 84 in 2022).

Other breeding records away from buildings. GWENT: 4 AON on Denny Island; E.GLAMORGAN: 242 AON on Flat Holm; GOWER: 3 AON in Fall Bay; CARMARTHEN: bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: loose colony between Aberfforest and Aber Rhigian; bred at Lydstep, Aber Step, Dinas Island and coast near Carn Fran, and probably on Marloes peninsula and Tenby; MEIRIONNYDD: >20 AON at Friog; 12 AON in old Barmouth quarry; >100 AON at Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: 22 AON on Llyn Elsi; 8 AON at Pen-y-clip; 1 AON at Morfa Dinlle; 1 AON at Morfa Madryn; ANGLESEY: nested on Ynys Badrig, RSPB South Stack and Pt Lynas; DENBIGH: 17 AON in Llanddulas quarry (10 on buildings); 6 AON at Llyn Brenig; 2 AON at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: bred on Dee estuary.

Non-breeding: the annual Wetland Bird Survey index fell by 32% on the previous year, bringing the smoothed index to its lowest value for a decade. No site within the Dee estuary - the most important Welsh site for the species - recorded >1000 Herring Gulls during the year, and collectively the peak count on the Welsh side of the river was 74% lower in 2022/23 than the previous year. The peak count at the second most important, Carmarthen Bay, was 73% lower. Was this a consequence of HPAI? There is, however, no strong trend in the BirdTrack reporting rate, which will include a wider array of terrestrial sites.

Wetland Bird Survey: Herring Gull in Wales 1993/94-2022/23



Sites with ≥1000 Herring Gull		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	Ogmore estuary	1060	1050	960	220	450	96	74	600	1200	800	870	420
GOWER	Neath estuary	1000	600	315	20	40	3	72	30	250	400	40	1000
GOWER/CARM	Morfa Bacas	285	932	1112	70	458	737	549	1024	659	84	103	458
PEMBROKE	Skomer				100	200	500	300	50	44			
	Llys-y-fran Reservoir	500	2000	2			1			15	50	150	340
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	1600	350	350	280	14	12	42	8	180	230	182	880
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	100	301	230	300	1000	300	200	11	62	20	30	10
DENBIGH	Llanddulas	7	150	1330	280	150	2	51	71	500	P	1	9
	Clwyd est.	623	184	250	183	296	185	403	1052	442	332	364	471

Counts ≥1000 elsewhere. CARMARTHEN: 1100 at Pembrey harbour on 7 July; BRECON: 4000 at Pontsticill Reservoir on 21 Nov.

L.a. argentatus

GOWER: Blackpill on 4 Sept.; Castell Ddu on 20 Oct. showing features of northern form; PEMBROKE: Gann est. on 10 Oct.

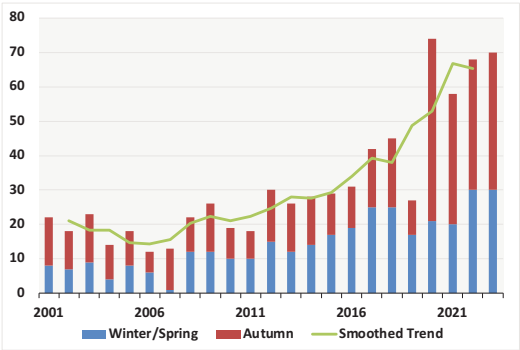
YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* GWYLAN GOESFELEN

Uncommon and irregular autumn/winter visitor to coastal areas, especially East Glamorgan and Gower. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	95	111
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Numbers have stabilised following a decade of growth in the 2010s, although the BirdTrack reporting rate has changed very little during that period.

Yellow-legged Gull: sum of largest count in each county, 2001-23



Yellow-legged Gull: total counts		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	2	2	1	4			2	3	1		8	2
	Cosmeston Lakes CP	1							1			1	1
	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.		1	1	1		1		1	1	1	1	1
	elsewhere	1		4	2			2	1	1	2		
GOWER		3	1	2			1	2	2	1	1	1	1
CARMARTHEN			2					4	4	1	7	7	
PEMBROKE		8	5						1	3	6	8	6
CEREDIGION								5		1	5	2	
BRECON		1		1					1		1		
MONTGOMERY													3
CAERNARFON				2						3			
ANGLESEY								1			1		
DENBIGH				1				1	1				
FLINT			2		1	1			1	1			

2020 GWENT, additional records: a second bird in July, two in Aug. and one in Dec.

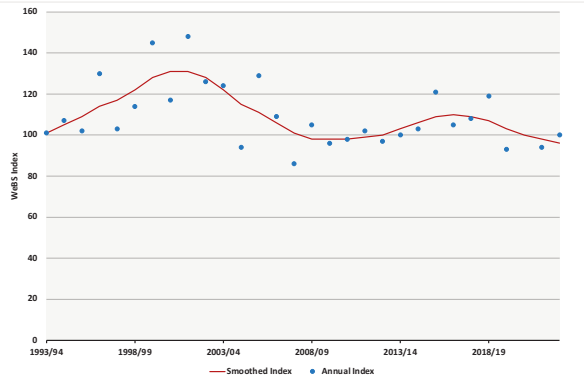
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FAWR

Widely distributed breeder on rocky coastlines: 648 AON (+49% since 2000). Fairly common and widespread in coastal areas in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	3761	3911
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	17%

Breeding colony counts: *c.*316 AON (*cf.* 329 when the tabulated sites were last counted, -4%). Shaded figures in the table on p.114 show declines since the previous count.

Wetland Bird Survey: Great Black-backed Gull in Wales 1993/94-2022/23



Other breeding sites. GWENT: *c.*20 AON on Denny Island; GOWER: bred at Port Talbot steelworks and Swansea civic centre; CEREDIGION: 10 AON on Cardigan Island; CAERNARFON: 1 AON on rooftop at Griffiths Crossing, Caernarfon; probably bred at Llyn Conwy and possibly on Llyn Dulyn; ANGLESEY: 1 AON on Inland Sea; nested on Ynys Badrig and probably on Ynys Moelfre; DENBIGH: three broods on Llyn Brenig; two AON on roofs in Tir Llwyd Ind. Estate, Kinmel Bay; 1 AON in Mochdre; FLINT: three pairs on rooftops in Rhyl and one in Rhuddlan.

Nest productivity (chicks/breeding pair). PEMBROKE: 39 fledged from 37 AON on Skokholm (1.05) (*cf.* 1.3 from 40 AON in 2022, Brown and Eagle 2024); 1.6 on Skomer (*cf.* 1.64 in 2022) (Newman *et al.* 2023); CAERNARFON: four fledged from 4 AON on Bardsey (1.0) and 60 from 29 AON on Ynysoedd Gwylan (2.07); ANGLESEY: nine fledged at RSPB South Stack (2.25).

Great Black-backed Gull: Apparently Occupied Nests		2023	2022 unless stated
PEMBROKE	Caldey	5	7
	Castlemartin peninsula	1	2
	Skokholm	66	78
	Skomer	121	114
	Middleholm	6-19	10
	Grassholm	11	7 (2018)
	Ramsey	13	22 (2018)
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	4	4
	Ynysoedd Gwylan	29	41
ANGLESEY	Llyn Maelog	1	1
	The Skerries	39	38
	RSPB Valley Wetlands	3	3
	RSPB South Stack	4	2

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey smoothed index is the lowest since gulls were first counted in 1993/94, and the three-year mean BirdTrack reporting rate is 25% lower than in 2013-15. The sites with the largest declines in Wales since 2000/01 are on the Dee estuary, Carmarthen Bay and the adjacent Burry Inlet.

Counts ≥30 additional to table. E.GLAMORGAN: 45 in Cardiff Bay on 24 Aug.; GOWER: 64 at Castell Ddu on 26 April; 36 at Weobley on 31 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 59 roosted at Tywyn Pt on 15 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 38 at Martin's Haven on 21 July; 30 at Dale airfield on 16 Aug. and 100 here on 9 Sept.; 30 at Upton on 29 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 57 at Ynyslas on 20 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 62 on Puffin Island on 23 Aug.

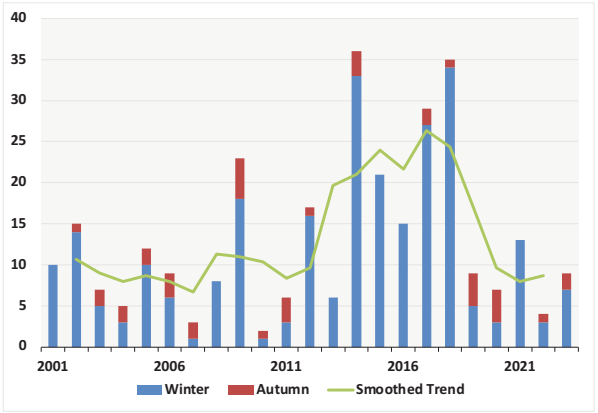
Sites with ≥30 Great Black-backed Gull		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE	Skokholm			91	116	98	85	130	86	106	43	42	3
	Blucks Pool/Freshwater W						20	10	30				
	Cleddau estuary	34	60	20	20	10	4	3	8	64	150	50	12
	Nevern estuary	50	7	20	13	14	32	15	13	8	11	11	7
	Skomer				40	200	50	100		182			
	Llys-y-fran Reservoir	110	2								2	3	3
PEMB/CERE	Teifi estuary	40	10	30	1	2	41	25	P	22	10	4	56
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	6	5	8	6	4	7	11	24	61	14	10	8
FLINT	Gronant	52	12	10	6	5	1	9	20	28	42	29	27

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in mid-winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4	26
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Glaucous Gull: all records, 2001-23



A typical number of records for recent years, although far fewer than a decade ago. First winter period. PEMBROKE: 2CY at Llys-y-fran Res. from 1 Jan. to 9 Feb., joined by a second on various dates between 13 Jan. and 5 Feb., also at Newgale on 6 Jan., Penberi Res. on 12th, Fishguard harbour on 23 Feb. and Nevern est. on 27th; 3CY on Gann est. on 5 Jan.; 2CY on Skomer on several dates during 6-20 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 2CY on Teifi est. on 9-10 March; CEREDIGION:

Aberaeron on 14 March; MEIRIONNYDD: Aber Dysynni on 21 Jan.

Second winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 31 Oct.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: adult on Teifi est. on 16-17 Dec.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FACH

Breeding summer visitor: 13,084 AON at natural sites (-45% since 2000) and 10,748 AON on rooftops. Also passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	5797	6149
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	29%

Coastal breeding counts: 7487 AON (*cf*. 8357 AON when the tabulated sites were last counted, -10.4%). Numbers increased again on Bardsey, the total number of AON being 9% greater the 10-year mean. Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Apparently Occupied Nests		2023	2022 unless stated
E.GLAMORGAN	Flat Holm	1503	1691
PEMBROKE	Caldey	420	415
	Castlemartin peninsula	9	9
	Skokholm	715	833
	Middleholm	2-8	5
	Skomer	5912	6672
	Grassholm	4	38 (2018)
	Ramsey	57	100 (2018)
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	201	159
	Ynysoedd Gwylan	3	1
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	18	3
	The Skerries	140	122

Other breeding sites away from buildings. GWENT: 5 AON on Denny Island; PEMBROKE probably bred at Lydstep; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-2 AON at Friog; CAERNARFON: 3 AON on Llyn Elsi; DENBIGH: 3 AON on Llyn Brenig; FLINT: 1 AON at Connah's Quay NR.

Nest productivity (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 71 fledged from a sample 102 nests on Skokholm (0.70, *cf*. 0.53 from 100 nests in 2022) (Brown and Eagle 2024); CAERNARFON: 31 fledged from 50 nests on Bardsey (0.62), 41% higher than the 10-year mean, three young fledged on Ynysoedd Gwylan (1.0).

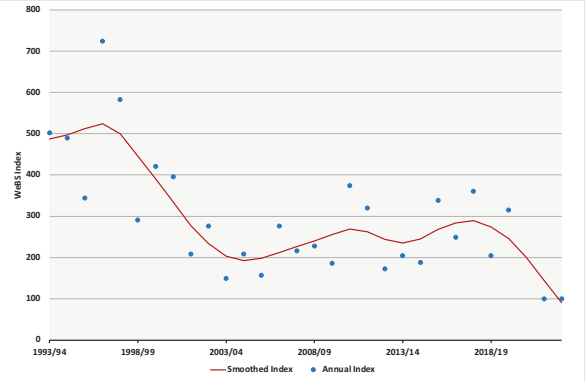
The only comparable assessment of rooftop nests was at Pembroke Dock Industrial Estate, PEMBROKE, where 39 AON were recorded (*cf.* 38 in 2022). Rooftop locations are only reported here when surveys are undertaken.

Sites with ≥200 Lesser Black-backed Gull		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Llandegfedd Res.	15	2	3			30		3	250			
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	90	300	70	28	32	50	80	150	260	70	15	80
	Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	76	30	101	30	100	40	107	120	300	150	80	75
	Rhaslas Pond			200	30		2	30	32	117	37	15	
CARMARTHEN	Llyn Pencarreg	12	2					190	40	200	400	650	4
PEMBROKE	Llys-y-fran Reservoir	6000	2500	54	10					258	3000	7500	6300
	Skomer				500	100	400	150	52	100			
	Skokholm			1031	577	595	350	368	375	48	17	54	2
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	1300	540	25	180	22	6	P	22	800	113	105	15
MONTGOMERY	Dolydd Hafren	6			2	11	1	1	5	2	50	200	29
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			75	80	156	300	300	100	187	72		

Non-breeding: the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index was the lowest ever, 81% lower than 30 years ago. By contrast, the index for Scotland has trebled in the same period and that for England has levelled out following earlier declines. The BirdTrack reporting rate was similar to recent years, but lower than 2013-15. Llys-y-fran Reservoir remains the most important site by some margin.

Counts ≥200 additional to the table on p.115. PEMBROKE: 300 at Tenby on 29 May; 200 in the upper Cleddau est. on 31 May; CEREDIGION: 250 in Dulas Valley on 18 Nov.; BRECON: 130 at Brechfa Pool on 13 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: >300 on flooded fields near Arddleen on 1 Nov.; >1000 on flooded fields near Welshpool on 28 Dec.; DENBIGH: 200 at Llechrydau on 8 June.

Wetland Bird Survey: Lesser Black-backed Gull in Wales 1993/94-2022/23



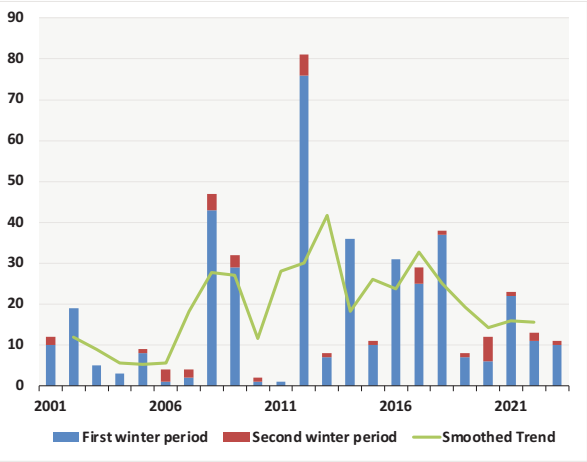
Lesser Black-backed X Ring-billed Gull
PEMBROKE: Llys-y-fran Res. on 9 Feb. and 26 Dec.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	227	42
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Iceland Gull: all records, 2001-23



All single 2CY birds unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 13 Jan.; 2CY at Cardiff Bay on 6 April; GOWER: Margam Opencast from 9 Feb. to 4 March; CARMARTHEN: Dryslwyn on 5 Feb.; PEMBROKE: adult at Llys-y-fran Res. on several dates from 1 Jan. to 23 Feb.; Nevern est. on 18 March, presumed same as in PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION on Teifi est. from 10 March to 7 April; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 26 March; ANGLESEY: Moelfre on 16 March; Cemlyn on 7 April.

***L.g. kumlieni* (Kumlien's Gull / Gwylan yr Arctig Kumlien)**
Rare winter visitor from North America. WBRC: 13 previous records.

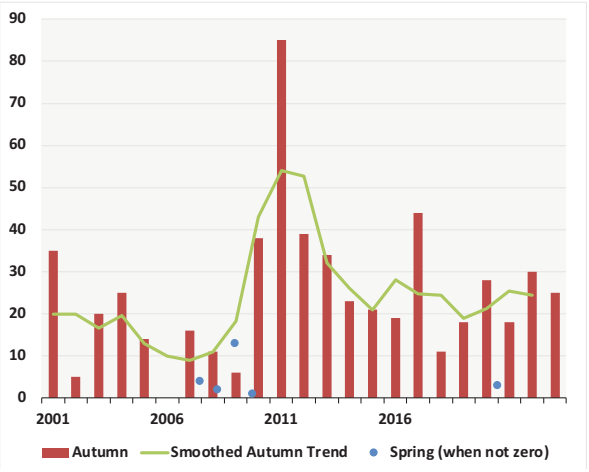
PEMBROKE: Fishguard on 13 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 2CY on Teifi est. on 15 Oct. and 23 Nov.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales. Unusual in spring. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	7	9
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Long-tailed Skua: all records, 2001-23



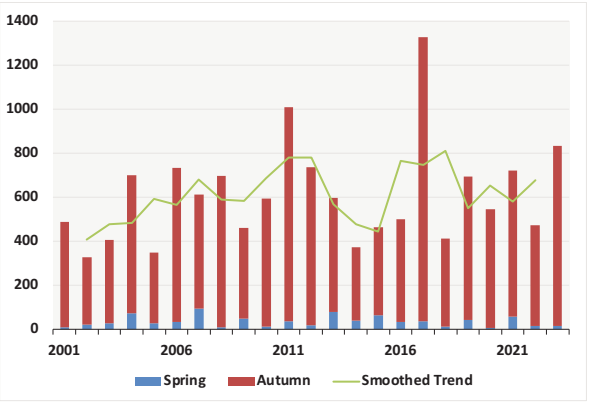
All single 1CY birds unless stated. PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 1, 3, 13 and 22 Aug., two on 26th, and singles on 30th (2CY), 18 Sept. and three other dates; Trefin on 18 Sept.; CAERNARFON: adult at Rhos Pt on 19 Aug. and 1CY here on 22 Sept.; Criccieth on 21 Aug.; Bardsey on 15 Sept. and three here on 17th; ANGLESEY: two passed Cemlyn on 23 Aug.; Bull Bay on 19 Sept.; Pt Lynas on 21 Sept. and two on 22 Sept.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage bird off coastal counties; uncommon in spring, more numerous in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	65	85
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Arctic Skua: all records, 2001-23



Breeding numbers at Scottish colonies were down 28% on the pre-HPAI level (Tremlett *et al*. 2024), having already fallen by 66% since 2000 (Burnell *et al.* 2023). That decline is reflected in the BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales over the last couple of years, which was almost half its level in 2013-15, but the numbers recorded were the highest since 2017. 40 off Bardsey on 17 September was the island's third highest day count ever.

Arctic Skua: totals		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
E.GLAMORGAN				1	1	4	4		2
GOWER					6	8	5		
CARMARTHEN			1			18	1		
PEMBROKE	Strumble Head				5	89	57	12	
	elsewhere	1	1		7	13	51		
CEREDIGION		8	1		5	26	21		
MEIRIONNYDD						3	1		
CAERNARFON	Bardsey				1	45	126	17	
	Porthor				1	6	19	4	
	Criccieth				3	23	29		
	elsewhere					49	13	9	
ANGLESEY	Point Lynas					30	47	5	4
	Cemlyn		1			20	11		
	elsewhere	2			4	4	6	1	
DENBIGH						2			
FLINT							1		

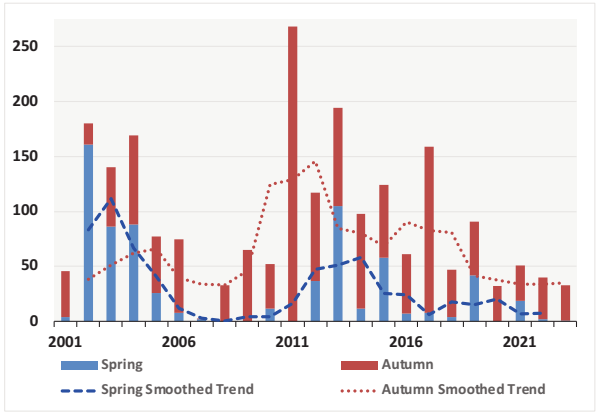
2020 GWENT: eight in Aug.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* SGIWEN FRECH

Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	9	14
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Pomarine Skua: all records, 2001-23



Single birds unless stated. Spring passage: CAERNARFON: Criccieth on 11 April.

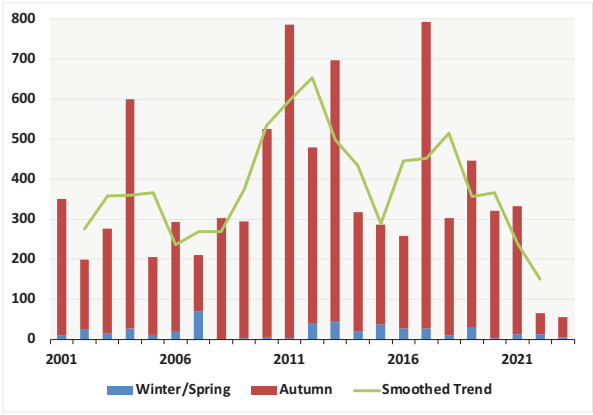
Autumn passage: PEMBROKE: Amroth on 22 July; Strumble Head on 31 July, 6 and 24 Aug., 5 and 29 Sept.; approx. 30km southwest of Skomer on 9 Aug.; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 3 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Afonwen on 9 Aug.; two off Uwchmynydd on 22 Aug.; Rhos Pt on 19 Sept.; Criccieth on 26 Sept.; two passed Porthor and one off Porth Ysgaden on 14 Nov.; Bardsey on 22 and 27 Aug., 18 and 29 Sept., and 2, 3 and 4 Oct., and two on 26 Aug. and 20 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Pt Lynas on 21 Sept. and 3 Oct.; three off Carmel Head on 22 Sept.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* SGIWEN FAWR

Regular on autumn passage along the west coast. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales. Small numbers in spring, and occasionally in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	20	11
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Great Skua: all records, 2001-23



Great Skuas in Scotland were the first seabirds detected with HPAI in Britain in summer 2021, and by 2023 the population had fallen by 76% (Tremlett *et al*. 2024). This was reflected in reduced numbers seen off Wales in autumn 2022 and again in 2023, when the total was 86% below the annual average for 2000-21. The BirdTrack reporting rate barely registered, and the three-year mean was 79% lower than 2013-15.

Great Skua: site totals		*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
PEMBROKE	Strumble Head	9	1	2	
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	2	6	1	
ANGLESEY	Point Lynas	3	2	2	1

Other records additional to table. Single birds unless stated. GOWER: Port Eynon on 20 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Grassholm on 2 and 11 Sept.; Skomer on 26 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 6 April; RSPB Ynys-hir on 23 April; two off New Quay on 29 Aug. and one here on 6th; Mwnt on 12 and 29 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Criccieth on 11 April and three here on 25 Sept.; two passed Rhos Pt on 19 Aug.; Porthor on 28 Sept.; Bangor Pier on 29 Sept.; Porth Ysgaden on 14 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Ynys Seiriol on 9 June; Cemlyn on 20 Aug.; Bull Bay on 22 Sept.; Porth y Môr on 26 Sept.; DENBIGH: Horton's Nose on 20 Aug.; FLINT: two passed Gronant on 13 Aug.

Puffin (Jeff Slocombe)

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* PAL

Locally abundant on offshore islands and a few western headlands: 30,663 AOB (+197% since 2000). Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	248	355
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding counts: 56,276 (mixed count units), *cf.* 51,238 in the tabulated previous counts (+9.8%). The increase is driven by Skomer and Middleholm, where the count was the highest for more than 30 years, and Skokholm where the count was the highest since the Second World War. There were increases at most other sites, but lower numbers were recorded on The Skerries and on Puffin Island, where it became clear that Brown Rats had become established. Puffins have been arriving around Skokholm earlier each season in recent years, with the first count >1000 (min. 1730 birds) on 12 March in 2023, three days ahead of the previous earliest in 2022.

Puffin: individuals, pairs or occupied burrows		2023	2022 count
PEMBROKE	St Margaret's Island (ind)	2	2
	Stackpole Head (ind)	2	1
	Skokholm (ind)	12,192	10,611
	Skomer & Middleholm (ind)	42,513	38,896
CAERNARFON	Bardsey (pairs)	198	160
	Ynysoedd Gwylan (AOB)	1053	788
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack (AOB)	10	5
	Puffin Island (ind)	13	34
	The Skerries (AOB)	292*	741

*count on The Skerries thought likely to be an underestimate as occupancy appeared to increase after the standard survey was completed.

PEMBROKE: also bred on Bishops & Clerks, but no counts undertaken; the only nest productivity monitoring (chicks fledged per active burrow) was on Skokholm where 56 young fledged from a sample of 71 burrows (0.79, *cf.* 0.72 from 68 burrows in 2022) (Brown and Eagle 2024).

Counts from sites where breeding does not occur. CARMARTHEN: two off Cefn Sidan on 3 May and one on 4th; five picked up dead here on 14 July; PEMBROKE: eight off St Govan's Head on 23 July, one on 29th, six on 30th and five on 31st; 29 off Strumble Head on 31 July, six here on 3 Aug., four on 4th, two on 5th and one on 19th; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 28 May, 23 June and two here on 8 July; Ynyslas on 30 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Porthor on 8 March; Great Orme on 16 May, 14 and 16 June, and two here on 26 June; 138 off Porth Ysgaden during 11-17 July, inc. 47 on 11th, 27 on 16th and 29 on 17th; ANGLESEY: six passed Cemlyn on 7 June; four off Pt Lynas on 29 June and one on 27 Dec.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle* GWYLOG DDU

Localised and uncommon breeding species, primarily on Anglesey: 38 individuals (+15% since 2000). Small numbers elsewhere outside the breeding season. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	232	241
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding season, individuals unless stated: PEMBROKE: two in Fishguard harbour from 10 Feb. (three on 26th) to 23 Aug.; CEREDIGION: two off New Quay on 29 Aug.; CAERNARFON: at least three pairs bred on Great Orme, and up to six other pairs probably bred (at least 17 birds on 18 March); ANGLESEY: bred in a nestbox in Holyhead harbour, only second use of a box in Wales (max. site count was 11 on 1 May); possibly bred around Pt Lynas (eight here in April and nine in July), Fedw Fawr (12 in June), Penmon (seven in June), Cemlyn (four in June), Bull Bay (two in May); regularly on sea at RSPB South Stack in May-July (and on dates in Jan., March, Aug. and Sept.), inc. two on 19 June and five on 27 July, but no evidence of breeding.

All records away from above sites (max. site counts only on Anglesey), singles unless stated: CAERNARFON: Traeth Crugan on 9 Jan., and two here on 22 Oct. and 21 Nov.; Rhos Pt on 20 Feb., 30 June, 20 July (on beach among Oystercatcher roost), 30 Aug., 22 Sept. and two here on 23rd; four off Bardsey on 13 June and one here on 18 Oct.; 12 off Penmaenmawr on 13 Aug., 16 here on 10 Sept. and one on 9 Oct.; Seiont est. on 1 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Beddmanarch Bay from 28 Jan. to 11 Feb. and on 12 Dec.; Traeth Bychan on 11 Feb.; Traeth Dulas on 11 March; five at Amlwch on 5 April; Moelfre on 7 April and Traeth Lligwy on 10th; two off Bull Bay on 14 April; two off Llanbadrig on 17 April; three off Benllech on 25 April; one off Carmel Head on 10 May; DENBIGH: one off Llanddulas on 24 Feb., two here on 27 March and one on 3 Aug.; FLINT: Pt of Ayr on 28 June.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* LLURS

Localised breeder from Gower to Caernarfonshire: 23,640 individuals (+82% since 2000). Some disperse south in winter but others remain in Welsh waters. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	779	781
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Breeding counts: 23,135 AOL (*cf.* 24,980 AON when the tabulated sites were last counted, -7.4%). Shaded figures show declines at more than two-thirds of colonies since the last count, including significant declines of >30% at the two Anglesey colonies.

Razorbill: Adults on Land		2023	2022 unless stated
PEMBROKE	Caldey	208	190
	St Margaret's Island	365	366
	Castlemartin peninsula	1683	1558
	Skokholm	3552	3965
	Middleholm	434	569
	Skomer	10,080	10,192
	Grassholm	62	39 (2018)
	Ramsey	2032	2160 (2021)
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	2028	1937
	St Tudwal's East	76	123 (2019)
	St Tudwal's West	56	79 (2019)
	Trwyn Cilan	101	163 (2019)
	Carreg y Llam	367	438 (2021)
	Ynysoedd Gwylan	26	32
	Great Orme	370	254
	Little Orme	29	40
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	1146	1646
	Puffin Island	520	1229

Other breeding records. PEMBROKE: Dinas Island, Lydstep and Needle Rock; CEREDIGION: 60 AOL on Cardigan Island; bred at Aberporth, Llangrannog and New Quay; ANGLESEY: 12 AON on The Skerries.

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.55 at study plots on Skokholm (*cf.* 0.64 in 2022) (Brown and Eagle 2024); 0.44 on Skomer for active and regularly occupied sites (*cf*. 0.47 in 2022) (Newman *et al*. 2023).

Non-breeding counts ≥5 away from colonies. CARMARTHEN: 20 at Cefn Sidan on 3 May; PEMBROKE: 30 in Fishguard harbour on 14 Jan.; 30 off Pen Anglas on 6 Aug.; 40 approx. 16km southwest of Skokholm on 23 Aug.; 15 approx. 5km southwest of Skokholm on 31 Aug.; 25 off Porthgain on 11 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 20 off Teifi est. on 13 Feb.; 150 off Mwnt on 28 Aug. and 100 here on 30th; MEIRIONNYDD: five off Mochras on 9 April; 5 off Aber Dysynni on 26 Nov.; CAERNARFON: up to 12 off Llanfairfechan/Penmaenmawr in Jan./Feb. and >30 here on 15 April; 121 off Porth Ysgaden on 12 July; ANGLESEY: 30 off Benllech and five off Penmon on 12 Feb.; 50 off Moelfre on 23 Feb. and 80 here on 18 March; >300 off Pt Lynas on 31 Aug. and 64 here on 24 Sept.

Razorbill: max. daily counts		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE	Skokholm			1973	2460	1800	2500	1000	23	98	14	25	1
	Strumble Head	100	80			100	30	250	250	500	500		
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			250	400	1600	1000	1000	42	1040	2559		
	Great Orme	10	70	80	140	190	390		1	1	1	12	1
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	10	200	125	>500	5000	3000	2000	1	10			

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* GWYLOG

Abundant breeder from Gower to Caernarfonshire: 104,737 individuals (+76% since 2000). Small numbers offshire in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	951	998
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Breeding counts. 97,369 AOL (*cf.* 103,813 AOL when the tabulated sites were last counted, -6.2%). There were declines (shaded cells) at more than 50% of colonies since the last count, but Bardsey recorded its highest number ever.

Guillemot: Adults on Land		AOL 2023	2022 unless stated
PEMBROKE	Caldey	117	119
	St Margaret's Island	1399	1395
	Castlemartin peninsula	16,948	19,035
	Skokholm	4992	5515
	Middleholm	436	333-455
	Skomer	29,141	31,790
	Grassholm	4092	2462 (2018)
	Ramsey	4932	5395 (2021)
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	2321	2193
	St Tudwal's East	1489	1797 (2019)
	St Tudwal's West	598	550 (2019)
	Trwyn Cilan	2436	3532 (2019)
	Carreg y Llam	13,560	13,914 (2021)
	Ynysoedd Gwylan	294	104*
	Great Orme	2670	2322
	Little Orme	969	1059
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	6639	8038
	Puffin Island	4336	4200

*corrected from figure published in *WBR 2022*.

Other occupied breeding sites. GOWER: Worm's Head (110 AOL on 16 June); CEREDIGION: 100 AOL on Cardigan Island; PEMBROKE: Dinas Island.

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair). PEMBROKE: 0.7 on Skomer (*cf.* 0.73 in 2022) (Newman *et al*. 2023); CAERNARFON: 31 chicks fledged from a sample of 62 AOLs on Bardsey (0.50), *cf.* 35 from 95 AOLs in 2022 (0.37).

Large numbers of Guillemots were washed up in North and West Wales in late summer; it was assumed that these resulted from HPAI, but minimal testing was undertaken to confirm this, and poor condition or food supply could not be ruled out. Six Skomer-ringed Guillemots were washed up in Northwest Wales, but none in Pembrokeshire. However, local authorities in Pembrokeshire and Anglesey probably collected and incinerated carcasses without checking for rings. Tim Birkhead (in litt.) estimated that mortality of Guillemots may have been around 20%, but this will only become clear in future breeding seasons.

Guillemot: max. daily counts		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE	Skokholm			3087	3610	2600	3800	1800	41	21	8	16	
	Strumble Head	200				150	120	500	500	500	1000		
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			300	80	1000	630	800	8	9	8		
	Great Orme	300	400	260	400	380	2600		6	1			
	Little Orme	220	330	2	8	14	20		8		2	4	3
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	2000	1000	700	500	10,000	15,000	7000	2	33			

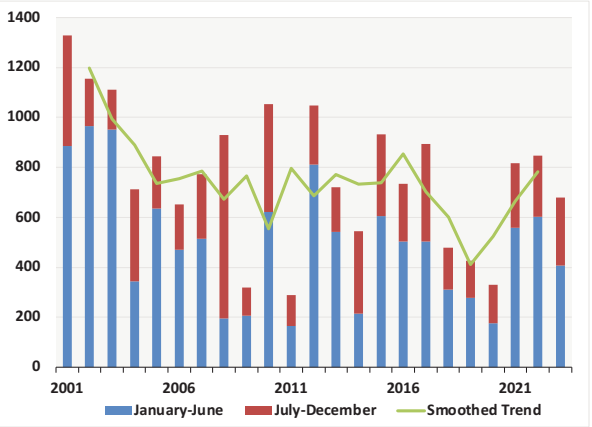
Non-breeding counts ≥5 away from colonies. GOWER: five at Tutt Head on 19 Aug. and 8 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Cefn Sidan on 3 May and six here on 4th; >200 picked up dead at Cefn Sidan in the week to 14 July; PEMBROKE: 15 from Fishguard-Rosslare ferry, in UK waters, on 28 Jan.; 40 off Pen Anglas on 6 Aug.; 12 at mouth of Cleddau est. and 51 5km southwest of Skokholm on 31 Aug.; CEREDIGION: up to 60 off Teifi est. in Jan. and 100 here on 13 Feb.; 40 off New Quay on 12 Feb.; 200 off Penbryn on 21 Feb.; 300 passed Mwnt on 28 Aug. and 200 here on 30th; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 off Mochras on 9 April; CAERNARFON: up to 10 off Rhos Pt in first winter period and up to nine in second winter period; 20 off Llanfairfechan on 4 April; 12 off Porth Ysgaden on 25 Oct.; 12 off Penmaenmawr on 2 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 300 off Penmon on 12 Feb.; >40 at Benllech on 12 March and 10 here on 21 Nov.; >300 rafted off Pt Lynas on 31 Aug.; five off Cemlyn on 25 Nov.; DENBIGH: 10 off Llanddulas on 8 Feb.; FLINT: 20 off Talacre on 12 Oct.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Localised coastal winter visitor and passage migrant, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	454	455
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Red-throated Diver: sum of max. site counts ≥20 birds, 2001-23



The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fell by 79% in its first 10 years, but has since remained fairly stable and was above the recent average in 2022/23. The total in the second half of the year was the highest since 2017, thanks largely to a count of 169 at Llanddulas, DENBIGH, on 11 Nov. However, numbers recorded were well down in some places, for example the maximum count in Carmarthen Bay was just 12 (off Telpyn Pt on 1 May) compared to a county record 119 in 2022.

Sites with ≥20 Red-throated Diver		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CAERNARFON	Little Orme-Rhos Pt	35	15	4	35	21	12	5	37
	Traeth Lafan	15	6	22	26		3	12	1
	Llandudno Bay	2	3	23	6	3	2	5	14
	Conwy Bay	2		14	14	22	43	74	43
ANGLESEY	Benllech/Traeth Coch	25	24	14		1	35	12	17
DENBIGH	Old Colwyn-Pensarn	78	44	100	32	10	10	169	25

Max. counts elsewhere. GOWER: seven in Rhossili Bay on 18 Feb.; 13 in Oxwich Bay on 10 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 15 in St Brides Bay in Dec.; CEREDIGION: 44 off Ynyslas on 25 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 102 off Aber Dysynni on 21 Jan. and 25 here on 4 March; >20 off Artro est. on 29 Nov.; 31 off Harlech on 1 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 22 off Traeth Bychan on 2 Feb.; 48 passed Pt Lynas and 29 off Cemlyn on 24 Nov., and 40 at the latter site on 11 Dec.; FLINT: four off Pt of Ayr on 12 March.

Unseasonal. CAERNARFON: two passed Porthor on 31 May; Tremadog Bay on 24 June; Llyn Bach on 26 June; ANGLESEY: Benllech on 14 May.

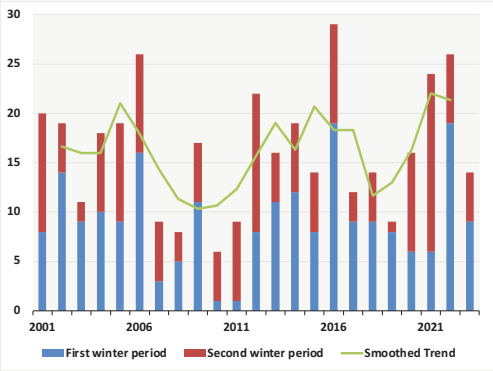
BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	28	35
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records, singles unless stated: GOWER: Port Talbot harbour on 14 Dec.; PEMBROKE: two in St Brides Bay on 2-16 Jan., one to 24th; Tenby on 15 Jan.; four passed Strumble Head in autumn; Gann est. on 7 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 6 April and 28 Oct.; two off Borth on 19 April; MEIRIONNYDD: Mochras on 9 April; CAERNARFON: Penrhyn Bay on 22 Jan.; Caernarfon Bay on 27 Jan. and 7 March; Great Orme on 22 and 26 Feb.; Bardsey on 14 and 16 Oct.; Llandudno Bay on 1 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Benllech on 22 Jan. and from 30 Jan. to 9 Feb. and 4-7 March, presumed same at Moelfre on 27 Jan. and 21-22 March and Traeth Bychan on 27-28 Jan.; Pt Lynas on 21 Sept. and 9 Nov., and two here on 10 Nov; Traeth Coch on 14 Dec.; DENBIGH: off Clwyd est. on 17 Dec.; FLINT: Gronant on 4 May.

Black-throated Diver: sum of max. in each county, 2001-23



GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* TROCHYDD MAWR

Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded offshore in small numbers annually. Scarce inland. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	391	302
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen 39% since 2013-15, but this is not reflected in the chart here. Once again, Caernarfon Bay was the most important site by far in the late winter/early spring, accounting for 90% of the county's records in January-April. One past Cemlyn, ANGLESEY, on 16 July was unseasonal, the same location as two in summer 2022.

Great Northern Diver: sum of max. monthly total in each season, 2001-23

GN Diver	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN										2	6	5
GOWER	3	1	1	2						1	4	8
CARMARTHEN	1	1		1	2							1
PEMBROKE	10	2	5	4						9	14	12
CEREDIGION		1	1	5							3	1
BRECON												1
RADNOR											1*	
MEIRIONNYDD	1										1	
CAERNARFON	28	32	29	34	1				2	7	9	12
ANGLESEY	11	2	2	1	2		1		2	2	10	7
DENBIGH	1	1	1								1	1

*found in a garden near Anchor on 8 Nov. and, following rehabilitation, ringed and released on a West Midlands reservoir. It was only the 14th individual of this species to be ringed in Britain & Ireland.

WILSON'S PETREL *Oceanites oceanicus* PEDTRYN DRYCIN WILSON

Rare visitor, breeding in the southern hemisphere. BBRC: 18 previous records.

PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 9 July and 3 Aug.; from a boat in the Celtic Deep on 9 Aug.; CEREDIGION: off New Quay on 13 Aug., the first county record, taken by a Peregrine.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* PEDRYN DRYCIN

Breeds on Bardsey and on six Pembrokeshire islands: 2943 pairs (+11% since 2000). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	24	52
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Apparently Occupied Breeding Sites. PEMBROKE: 20 young fledged from a sample 25 AOS on Skokholm, 0.8 fledged chicks/breeding pair (*cf*. 0.85 in 2022); 7 AOS on Ramsey; CAERNARFON: adult and egg in a nestbox and several others called from crevices on Bardsey, and three young seen although no survey undertaken; evidence of breeding on Ynys Gwylan Fawr.

Storm Petrel: site maxima		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
PEMBROKE	Skokholm	5	104	154	121	35	9
	Strumble Head			50	30	48	1

Non-breeding: although the British & Irish breeding population has remained stable over the last 20 years (Burnell *et al*. 2023), the BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen by 94% since 2013. All records, singles unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 2 July; Lavernock Pt on 4, 15 and 30 July; Porthcawl on 16 July and 19 Sept.; Cardiff Bay on 2 Aug.; PEMBROKE: four off Grassholm on 19 May; Amroth on 22 July and three here on 20 Sept.; 10 off St Govan's Head between 23 July and 2 Aug., and singles here on 24 and 29 Sept.; 25 on a pelagic trip to Celtic Deep on 9 Aug., 12 on 17th, 13 on 23rd and 3 Sept.; Trefin on 18 Sept.; CEREDIGION: two at New Quay on 20 May and singles here on 24 June, 3 and 10 Aug.; off Mwnt, two on 20 May and 20 June, five on 25 June and 14 July, four on 1 Aug. and six on 30th; Ynyslas on 12 July; CAERNARFON: six passed Porth Ysgaden 2 July, and singles here on 11th and 16th; Bardsey on 30 and 31 July, 1 and 21 Aug., and 20 Sept., three here on 19 Aug. and two on 19 Sept.; two passed Great Orme on 9 Aug.; two off Criccieth on 10 July, singles here on 30 July, 21 Aug., 20 Sept. and six on 25th; Carreg y Defaid on 21 Aug.; Porthor on 20 Sept.; five off Bardsey on 28 Aug.; ANGLESEY: two ringed at Pt Lynas on 14 June; singles passed Cemlyn on 6 and 16 July, 14 and 25 Aug., with two here on 15 Aug. and singles on 25 Aug. and 22 Dec.; 2-3 off RSPB South Stack on 11 July.

2020 GWENT: Goldcliff Pt on 22 Aug.

LEACH'S PETREL *Hydrobates leucorhous* PEDRYN-DRYCIN LEACH

Uncommon autumn visitor, most frequent off the North Wales coast and Cardigan Bay during storms in September. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	9	10
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

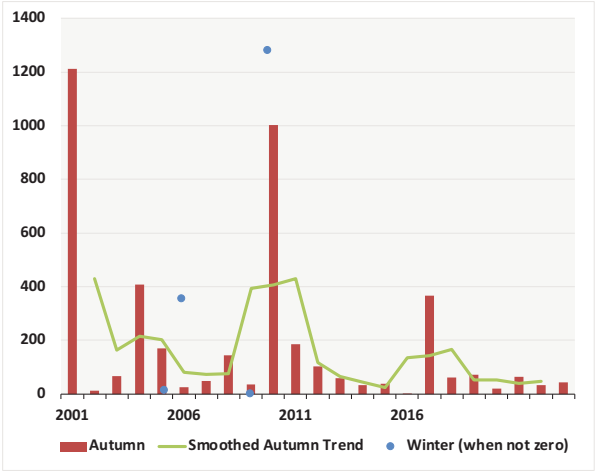
Another poor year for the species. It is not known from where Leach's Petrels in Welsh waters originate, but the trend reflects a 68% decline measured on St Kilda during 2000-19, a site that previously held almost all (94%) of Britain & Ireland's breeding pairs (Deakin 2021).

All singles unless stated. GWENT: dead in a garden at White Castle on 20 Nov.; PEMBROKE: approx. 32km southwest of Grassholm on 9 Sept.; Strumble Head on 12 Sept., 13 here on 22nd and one on 24 Nov.; St Govan's Head on 24 Sept.; CEREDIGION: six passed Ynyslas on 19 Aug.; Mwnt on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: five passed Bardsey on 22 Sept.; two off Rhos Pt on 22 Sept.; Criccieth on 25 Sept.; dead outside Pontio,

Bangor, on 27 Sept.; CAERNARFON/ ANGLESEY: Menai Strait on 27 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Beddmanarch Bay on 22 Sept.; Cemlyn on 5 Oct.; DENBIGH: four off Pensarn on 22 Sept.; FLINT: off Rhyl and Prestatyn on 22 Sept.

2020 GWENT: second Severn Crossing on 17 Nov.

Leach's Petrel: all records, 2001-23



FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Fairly common but declining breeding species: 2494 AOS (-27% since 2000). Frequent offshore in most months. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	835	824
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

Breeding colony counts: 1212 AOS (*cf*. 1411 AOS when the tabulated sites were last counted, -14%). Colonies with reductions (shaded figures) outnumbered those with increases. These included the larger colonies on Skomer, Ramsey and Skokholm.

Fulmar: Apparently Occupied Sites		2023	2022 unless stated
PEMBROKE	Caldey	101	92
	St. Margaret's Island	14	12
	Castlemartin peninsula	43	60*
	Skokholm	195	224
	Middleholm	1	1-5
	Skomer	472	538
	Ramsey	267	313
CAERNARFON	Great Orme	36	42
	Little Orme	4	7
	Pen-y-clip	3	5
	Carreg y Llam	10	7
	St Tudwal's East	2	2 (2019)
	St Tudwal's West	0	2 (2019)
	Trwyn Cilan	29	41 (2019)
	Bardsey	25	35
ANGLESEY	Puffin Island	13	23
DENBIGH	Llanddulas Quarries	3	3

*corrected from figure published in *Welsh Bird Report 2022*.

Other breeding records. GOWER: bred at Port Eynon Pt and probably at Fall Bay; PEMBROKE: in St Bride's Bay, 15 AON at Nolton Haven, 8 AON at Black Pt and 4 AON at Maidenhall Pt; 3 AON at Marloes Deer Park; 2 AON at Monkstone Pt and Cat Rock, Aber Step; also bred at Lydstep, Porthgain, Abereiddi Bay and coast near Carn Fran and Carn Treliwyd; CEREDIGION: bred at Llangrannog; MEIRIONNYDD: 1 AON at Friog; CAERNARFON: 2 AON at Porth Meudwy; bred at Porth Iago, Porth Colmon and Penmaenbach; ANGLESEY: 4 AOS at Llanbadrig and between Trwyn Eilian and Dulas; also bred at Moelfre and Porth Swtan; DENBIGH: 1 AON at Old Colwyn.

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair). PEMBROKE: 34 fledged from a sample 63 AOS on Skokholm (0.54, *cf*. 0.52 from 66 AOS in 2022, Brown and Eagle 2024); 0.22 on Skomer (*cf.* 0.39 in 2022), the lowest on record (Newman *et al.* 2023); 11 fledged from 49 AOS on Ramsey (0.22, *cf.* 0.41 from 56 AOS in 2022); CAERNARFON: 12 fledged from 25 AOS on Bardsey (0.48, *cf*. 0.63 in 2022).

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been falling since 2013 and was lower in 2023 than in any year unaffected by lockdowns. The rate was 60% lower in 2021-23 than in 2013-15. Non-breeding records/county maxima ≥10: PEMBROKE: 209 passed Skomer and 150 passed Strumble Head on 25 March; ANGLESEY: 25 off Benllech on 30 Jan.

Fulmar: site maxima		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE	Skokholm			209	141	139	160	70	51	48	2		
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			4	26	25	55	16	20	3	1		
	Great Orme	13	12	28	18	40	16	19	4	6		6	26
	Rhos Point	4	25		74		6	8	4	1			1

2020 GWENT: county max. was five at Sudbrook on 21 May.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris borealis* ADERYN DRYCIN CORY

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 124 previous records.

An astonishing 51 individuals, part of the largest ever movement into the Southwestern Approaches, related to warm water currents. The eight off Skokholm on consecutive days were the most ever recorded from a Welsh site in a single day (*cf*. seven at Strumble Head on 15 Aug. 1999) and the 20 seen from the island in autumn 2023 compared to eight here in the previous 100 years.

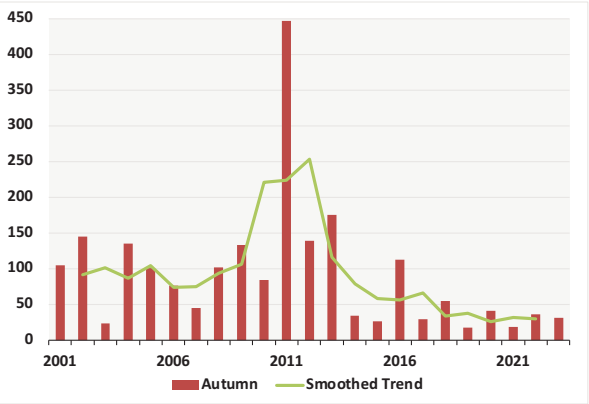
PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 16 July, four here on 29th and 30th, three on 31st, and singles on 3 and 5 Aug.; St Govan's Head on 29 and 30 July, and 1 Aug.; eight from Skokholm on 31 July and 1 Aug., three here on 12th and one on 19 Sept.; from boats (distances relative to Skomer), two approx. 31km southwest on 9 Aug., two approx. 19km southwest on 23rd and one approx. 58km WSW on 3 Sept.; CEREDIGION: two off Mwnt on 1 Aug. and one on 8th; CAERNARFON: three from Bardsey on 31 July, and singles here on 30 July, 22 Aug. and 17 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two passed Cemlyn on 3 Aug.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Ardenna grisea* ADERYN DRYCIN DU

Uncommon autumn passage migrant, though numbers vary. Wales Green listed.

The low numbers of recent years continued, reflecting its global Near Threatened status. Noteworthy were three spring records and one on New Year's Eve, suggestive of small numbers remaining in the Celtic Sea through the winter. All records, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 30 July; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 14 March and 13 April, four here on 5 Aug., five on 6th and singles on 11th, 13th and 22nd and on 31 Dec.; St Govan's Head on 2 Aug.; Skokholm on 2 Aug. and 3 Sept.; two approx. 19km southwest of Skomer on 23 Aug.; three

Sooty Shearwater: all records, 2001-23



approx. 70km southwest of Skokholm on 15 Oct.; one approx. 104km southwest of Skokholm on 18 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 30 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Porthor on 11 Jan.; Uwchmynydd on 22 Aug.; Bardsey on 31 Aug. and 4 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 24 July and 3 Nov.; Pt Lynas and Cemlyn on 24 Nov.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Ardenna gravis* ADERYN DRYCIN MAWR

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 294 previous records.

A smaller influx than of Cory's Shearwater, but nonetheless the largest number in a single year since 43 in 2004.

PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 30 July and two here on 5 Aug.; Skokholm on 31 July and two on 31 Aug.; two from a boat in the Celtic Deep on 9 Aug., 12 on 23rd and one on 3 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 31 July.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* ADERYN DRYCIN MANAW

Breeds on Pembrokeshire islands and Bardsey, which hold over half the global population: 480,627 AOS (+186% since 2000). Large feeding movements and autumn passage off all coasts. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	396	497
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Apparently occupied burrows: PEMBROKE: responses from 1080 AOB in study plots on Skomer (*cf*. 1247 in 2022 and the lowest since 2010) (Newman *et al*. 2023); 521 AOB (*cf*. 710 in 2022) in a sample study area of 8000m² on Skokholm (Brown and Eagle 2024); bred on Ramsey, but not surveyed.

The species is the subject of long-term and ongoing studies on the islands, providing valuable data in relation to the warming seas. Fieldworkers on Skomer noted several anomalies during the season, including greater variability in weights of eggs and egg-laying dates, but initial analysis has not suggested that this had any significant effect on breeding performance or survival, at least within 2023 (Bond *et al*. 2024). On Bardsey, GPS tagging of breeding adults showed most foraging took place in the Irish Sea, but two notable trips in 2023 included one that covered 5,834km over 12 days, to waters west of Iceland and stopping close to the Arctic Circle before returning to its chick; and another that fed off Skye, before circumnavigating the whole of Ireland on its return leg.

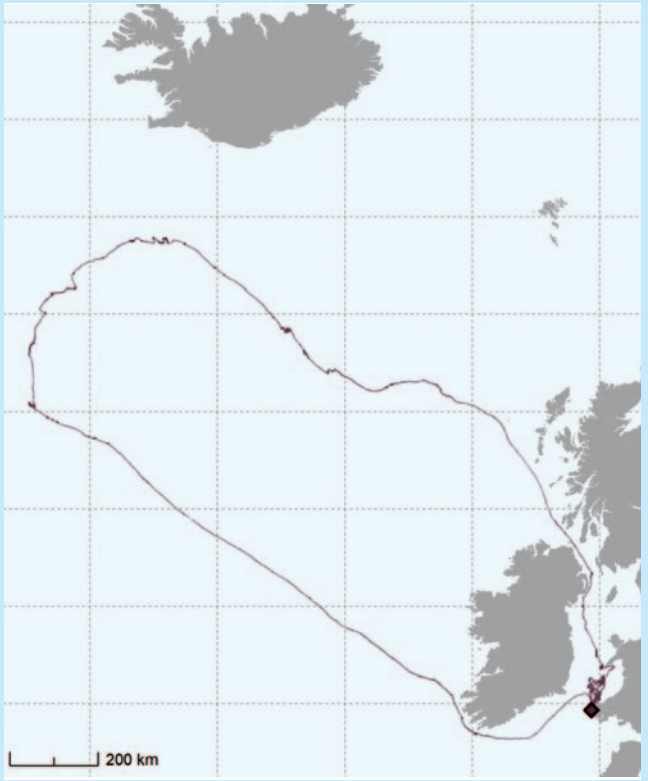
Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair). PEMBROKE: 113 fledged from a sample of 166 burrows on Skokholm (0.68), *cf.* 127 from 185 burrows in 2022 (0.69); CAERNARFON: 57 fledged from a sample of 80 burrows on Bardsey (0.71) which was 2.7% lower than the mean since 1998 (*cf*. 0.77 in 2022).

Non-breeding. The BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen by 72% since 2013-15 but that almost certainly reflects a smaller proportion of users entering seawatch records. There were a handful of winter records, in PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 9 Jan., four on 9 Dec. and one on 12th; CAERNARFON: Porthor on 9 and 29 Dec.; ANGLESEY: North Stack on 1 and 13 Jan.; Moelfre on 29 Jan.

Manx Shearwater: daily maxima		*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
PEMBROKE	Skokholm	40	20,500	10,400	3820	50,400	72,550	16,000	55	1
	Strumble Head	2000		20	100	2000	500	200	6	
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	22	536	750	5060	19,991	1499	369	55	
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	2	49	>1000	200	1195	340	10		

Other large counts. GWENT: >100 off Sudbrook on 3 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 615 passed Lavernock Pt in two hours on 27 June; 5000 passed Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 2 Aug.; GOWER: 550 at Broughton on 17 May and 1370 here on 18 June; 1000 at Overton on 15 June; CARMARTHEN: 1500 off Telpyn Pt on 1 May; 1831 off Cefn Sidan on 19 May, 3518 on 20th, 2000 on 3 June, >3000 on 18th and >1000 on 16 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 5000 off Cyffredin on 30 June; 11,682 off St Govan's Head on 29 July; CEREDIGION: 7200 off Gwbert on 15 July and 11,000 here on 3 Aug.; 16,000 north past Ynyslas in 2.5 hours on 9 Aug.; 6000/hour north past Aberystwyth on 17 Aug.; CAERNARFON: >300 off Rhos Pt on 12 April and 305 here on 1 July; 2600 off Porth Ysgaden on 9 July and 6044 here in 100 mins on 13th, 1200 on 16th and 668 on 2 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 500 off Cemlyn on 27 May; 775 west off Llanbadrig in one hour on 1 July.

Long-distance feeding trip



The RSPB reserve of Ramsey, off St Davids Head in Pembrokeshire, has become a significant Manx Shearwater colony since the eradication of invasive predators, with the breeding population expanding rapidly. Artificial nest-boxes dug in by the wardens and volunteers have been part of the recovery plan, and their success has been such that we have been able to track adults that nest in them. Migration tracking using tiny geolocators has been underway since 2009, but in 2022 and 2023 there was sufficient breeding experience in the colony that, with the help of RSPB staff Greg Morgan, Nia Stephens and Alys Perry, we deployed precision GPS loggers to investigate foraging movements in greater detail. Ramsey's Shearwaters appear to feed mainly to the north of the colony, perhaps driven by the colony's proximity to major colonies on Skomer and Skokholm to the south. Nonetheless, we were surprised to discover the extent of some of these foraging movements. The example individual shown here, EG59067 from nest box 56, made several short trips into Cardigan Bay, returning to feed its chick regularly, then made a remarkable trip into the North Atlantic, more than 1600km from home at its farthest point. The alternation of short and long trips is common in *Procellariiformes* [petrels] as they balance the needs of the chick with their own self-maintenance, a strategy known as "dual foraging". Our goal in this tracking project is to understand how the closely neighbouring colonies of Ramsey, Skomer and Skokholm interact to drive the distribution of Manx Shearwaters in the Celtic and Irish Seas, and of course far beyond.

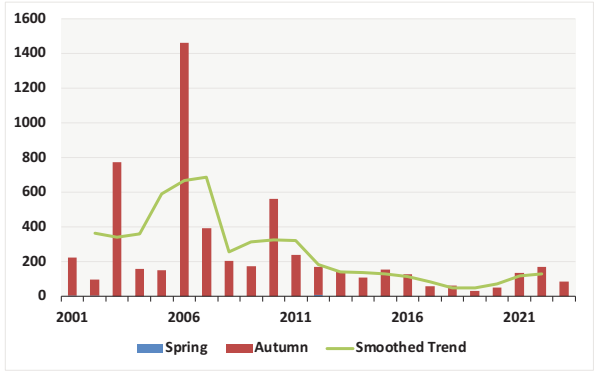
Tim Guilford, Oxnav, Department of Biology, University of Oxford. Map prepared by Sarah Bond.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* ADERYN DRYCIN BALEARIG

Uncommon autumn migrant to western coasts, though larger numbers can occur in the Celtic Sea (e.g. 23% of the global population in 2014). Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	34	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Balearic Shearwater: all records, 2001-23



The number of at-sea post-breeding records of Balearic Shearwater in the northeast Atlantic away from Iberia has increased markedly in the last two decades, despite the annual 10% decline in the global population. This is not evident in the numbers seen from Welsh shores.

Other records additional to the table. Singles unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 2 Aug.; Porthcawl, on 19 Sept.; PEMBROKE: St Govan's Head on 29 and 30 July; Skomer on 1 Aug.; three off Grassholm on 2 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 9 Aug.; Mwnt on 30 Aug. and 12, 20 and 21 Sept.; New Quay on 6, 7 and 8 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Uwchmynydd on 22 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 15 Aug.

Balearic Shearwater: total counts		*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
PEMBROKE	Skokholm		2	5
	Strumble Head		8	32
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	1	10	2
	Porthor	1	2	3
ANGLESEY	Point Lynas		4	2

GANNET *Morus bassanus* HUGAN

Two breeding colonies. Elsewhere, occurs off all coasts throughout the year. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1293	1442
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

Apparently Occupied Sites: PEMBROKE: 16,482, compared to 34,491 in 2022 (-52%) following severe HPAI outbreak in 2022, and the lowest count since 1969. 44% of nests had young, *cf*. average 79% prior to 2022; ANGLESEY: only one chick recorded on Ynys Badrig, fledging in the first week of Oct. (*cf*. seven from 21 AON in 2022) and several dead adults were seen but not tested for HPAI. Large numbers of mostly adults frequented the site through the summer (max. 310 on 1 July).

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate for Gannet, much like other passage seabirds, has fallen since 2013-15, by 39% as relatively fewer seawatching records are being submitted. However, the rate in 2023 was the highest since 2016.

Gannet: site maxima		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
PEMBROKE	Skokholm			26	68	94	44	360	1394	248	61		
	Strumble Head	50			24	30	50	200	812	125	30	5	30
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			30	30	8	65	50	465	265	118		
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	4	7	5	11	11	13	10	100	13	8	1	
	Point Lynas	78			16		8	40	50	>800	20	80	120

Other notable counts and county max. GWENT: 18 off Caldicot Pill on 13 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 26 passed Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 19 Nov.; GOWER: 66 off Rhossili on 30 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.250 off Pembrey harbour on 1 June; 100 off Cefn Sidan on 30 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 1520 on a pelagic trip to the Celtic Deep on 23 Aug.; 1700 off the Bishops & Clerks on 13 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 350 off Llanrhystud on 2 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 101 off Llandanwg on 27 July; CAERNARFON: 133 passed Rhos Pt on 13 April and 162 here on 28 Aug.; 240 passed Porth Ysgaden on 16 July; DENBIGH: 20 off Kinmel Bay on 10 July; FLINT: 43 off Gronant on 11 May.

2020 GWENT: county max. was six off Goldcliff Pt on 21 Aug.

Cormorant (Tony Pope)

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* MULFRAN

Breeding resident in coastal counties: 1477 AON (-17% since 2000). Wintering population 2894 individuals, including inland. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	5830	6172
% of BirdTrack lists	26%	26%

Cormorant: Apparently Occupied Nests		*AON 2023*	*2022 unless stated*
PEMBROKE	St Margaret's Island	148	137
	Middleholm	6	10-15
MONTGOMERY	Llyn Coed-y-dinas	3	3
MEIRIONNYDD	Craig yr Aderyn	26	55 (2018)
CAERNARFON	Great Orme	66	95
	Little Orme	250	422
	Ynysoedd Gwylan	17	6
ANGLESEY	Puffin Island	542	502
	RSPB South Stack	15	14

Apparently Occupied Nests: 1073 AON (*cf.* 1249 AON when tabulated sites were last counted, -14%). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

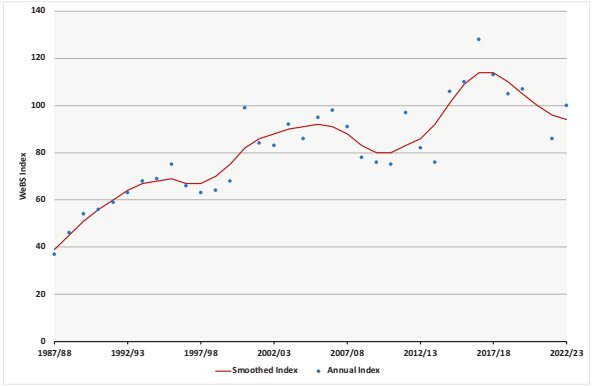
Other nest sites. GWENT: 34 AON on Denny Island; 1 AON beside R.Wye at Chepstow (first tree nest in the county); CEREDIGION: 2 AON on Cardigan Island; MEIRIONNYDD: 15 AON at Friog.

Productivity (fledged young/nest). CAERNARFON: 27 fledged from 17 nests on Ynys Gwylan Fawr (1.83).

Non-breeding: numbers made something of a recovery after a fall in the previous year's WeBS index value. Nonetheless, the smoothed trend is 22% lower than at its peak in 2016/17, in part reflecting the decline in the breeding population. The index in England has, by contrast, reached a record level but is more

strongly influenced by continental migrants of the *P.c. sinensis* subspecies. The largest declines have been on the coasts of Denbighshire and Flintshire, although the Dee estuary remains the fifth most important in Britain for the species, but the Radnorshire bird recorder also commented that encounters are much less frequent than previously.

Wetland Bird Survey: Cormorant in Wales 1987/88-2022/23



Sites with ≥50 Cormorant		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	Cardiff Bay	114	16	26	12	3	24	20	30	82	71	73	117
	Roath Park lake	107	100	5	7	3	3	2	13	7	15	64	13
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	30	15	20	14	4	2	3	22	100	20	21	11
	Llyn Pencarreg	50	24	2	1	2			1	2	3	15	21
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	50	90	32	7	5	3	5	20	44	68	60	42
MEIRIONNYDD	Broadwater/Aber Dysynni	18	20	30	18	5	1	P	41	89	15	12	12
	Llyn Trawsfynydd	34	58	24							4	5	23
CAERNARFON	Great Orme	2	27	20	12	30	66	1	35	4	70		9
	Little Orme to Rhos Pt	39	46	31	27	20	30	57	80	476	107	259	22
	Traeth Lafan	27	33	57	2	4+	5	11	42	13	18	34	6
DENBIGH	Llanddulas-Pensarn	25	22	13	22	3		2	14	65	60	3	20
	Clwyd estuary	66	41	64	85	166	118	184	271	192	94	51	68
FLINT	Gronant	224	80	135	79	51	80	116	170	174	450	440	70
	Point of Ayr	81	47	20	8	2	P	3	9	18	15	20	150
	Connah's Quay-Flint	500	45	21	15	2	16	70	24	50	36	127	640

Counts ≥50 elsewhere. CARMARTHEN: 50 at Llyn Pencarreg on 23 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 71 at Ynyslas on 8 Aug. and 70 here on 16 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 162 roosted on pylon at Llandecwyn on 14 Sept.; 100 at Morfa Harlec on 23 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 51 in eastern Menai Strait on 12 March; 60 at Ynys Moelfre on 18 March; 50 at Traeth Lligwy on 10 April; 50 at Fedw Fawr on 2 June; 250 off Ynys Llanddwyn on 16 July.

***P.c. sinensis* (Continental Cormorant / Mulfran y Cyfandir)**

Likely to be under-reported, especially inland where 18% of birds shot in the late 1990s were identified as this subspecies. WBRC determined regular occurrence, especially in Breconshire. The *Welsh Bird Report* continues to report records that include details of the angle of the gular patch (Newson *et al.* 2004), which is the only diagnostic feature.

BRECON: three at Llangorse Lake on 19 Feb., two here on 18 June and 24 Aug. The *Breconshire Bird Report* estimates that *P.c. sinensis* constitute *c*.5-10% of the county population across all seasons.

SHAG *Gulosus aristotelis* MULFRAN WERDD

Localised breeding species on rocky coasts from Pembrokeshire to Caernarfonshire: 651 AON (-29% since 2000). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	1187	1255
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Breeding colony counts: 461 AON (*cf*. 463 AON when the tabulated sites were last counted). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count. The population on Ynysoedd Gwylan was 90% above the 10-year mean and productivity there was the best for more than a decade.

Shag: Apparently Occupied Nests		*2023*	*2022 unless stated*
PEMBROKE	Middleholm	6-11	18-21
	Caldey	5	3
	St Margaret's Island	14	3
	Skomer	5	4
	Castlemartin peninsula	8	7
	Grassholm	11	8 (2018)
	Ramsey	13	6 (2018)
CEREDIGION	Cardigan Island	3-5	4
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	60	65
	Ynysoedd Gwylan	99	29
	St Tudwal's Island East	11*	54 (2019)
	St Tudwal's Island West	33*	42 (2019)
	Trwyn Cilan	8*	18 (2019)
	Carreg y Llam	5*	9 (2021)
	Great Orme	22	9
	Little Orme	4	2
ANGLESEY	Puffin Island	137	169
	The Skerries	10	10

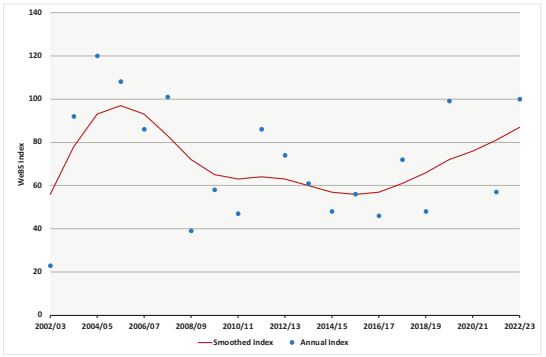
*counts probably an underestimate because most young had already fledged by the survey date.

Other breeding records. PEMBROKE: probably bred at Broad Haven and Druidston Chins; CAERNARFON: "small colony" at Trefor.

Productivity (fledged young/nest). CAERNARFON: 59 fledged on Bardsey from 60 nests (0.99), the lowest this century (*cf*. 2.25 in 2022); min. 165 fledged from 99 nests on Ynys Gwylan Fawr (1.66, *cf.* 1.31 in 2022); ANGLESEY: 10 fledged on The Skerries (1.0).

Non-breeding: in common with the Wetland Bird Survey index elsewhere in Britain, numbers have recovered since the dip in the previous decade. However, WeBS may not be representative of their favoured rocky coasts, and the indices are at odds with the decline in the breeding population. The mean annual BirdTrack reporting rate fell 49% between 2013-15 and 2021-23, but at least some of this probably results from fewer seawatches in recent years, evident in the rate for more pelagic species.

Wetland Bird Survey: Shag in Wales 1987/88-2022/23



Max. counts additional to table. E.GLAMORGAN: four off Sker Pt on 28 Sept.; GOWER: four in Bracelet Bay on 18 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 10 passed Strumble Head on 5 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 13 off Aberaeron on 12 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 36 at Aber Dysynni on 26 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 32 passed Porth Ysgaden on 16 July and 42 here on 21 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 120 off Penmon on 6 July; 45 at Moelfre on 26 Oct.; 45 on East Mouse on 16 Oct.; DENBIGH: 15 off Old Colwyn on 23 May.

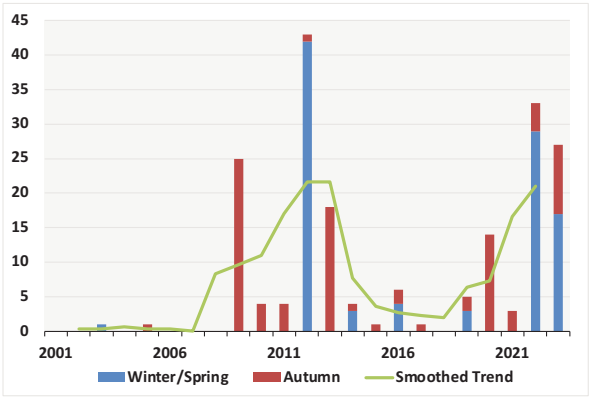
Shag: site maxima	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey			41	38	68	107	82	76	30	22		
Great Orme	6	25	20	30	15	88	2	45		2	50	12
Little Orme-Rhos Pt	23	71	9	28	27	20	30	10	50	35	26	5

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellis* IBIS DDU

Uncommon but increasing visitor from Europe. 174 previous records.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	104	29
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Glossy Ibis: all records, 2001-23



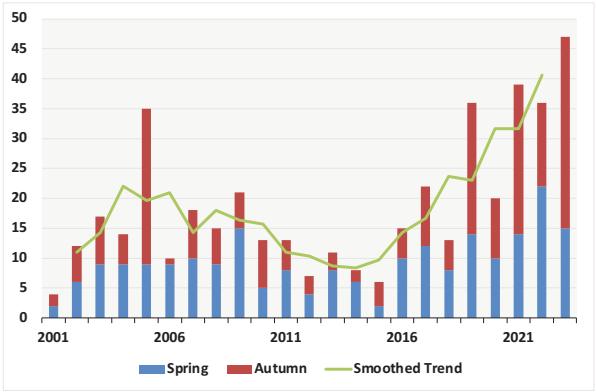
The total for the year would have been relatively low were it not for the sole spring record, a flock of 17 that was the largest in Wales since 2009. All single birds unless stated. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 1-2 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 17 over Skomer on 13 May; Carew Castle on 12-13 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 7 Oct.; two south along coast from Aberystwyth to New Quay on 5 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: up to two at Broadwater on 3-12 Sept. and on 31 Oct.; CAERNARFON: two over Bardsey on 27 Oct., presumed same in Llanengan/Abererch/Pwllheli from 1 Nov. to year end; ANGLESEY: Valley on 4-5 Nov., perhaps same at Malltraeth Cob on 10th and 16th.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* LLWYBIG

Uncommon visitor to Wales, mainly to coastal wetlands, in autumn, but increasingly in spring and summer. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	332	379
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Spoonbill: sum of max. in each county, 2001-23



A record year, largely owing to a count of 17 at Penclacwydd, CARMARTHEN, on 4-18 November that was the largest flock ever recorded in Wales, breaking a record that had stood since May 1893!

Additional to table, singles unless stated. GWENT: Peterstone Wentlooge on 16 and 24 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: Hendre Lake from 23 Feb. to 4 March; two 1CY at Lavernock Pt and Cardiff Bay on 12 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Monkton on 30-31 May; Skokholm on 6 June; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 22-28 April; Cors Caron on 7-13 May; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 6 April; Pentraeth on 30 May; Cemlyn on 10 Aug.; two on Inland Sea on 9-10 Oct.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy and Llyn Brenig on 6 July; Clwyd est. on 11-12 Sept.

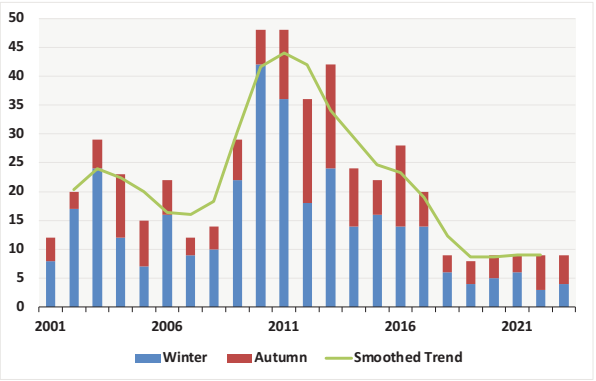
Spoonbill: site maxima		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	1	1	1		1	2	1	2	5	2		
GOWER/CARM	Burry Inlet	6	6	6	2	1	1		1	5	16	19	18
FLINT	Dee estuary				1	1	3	1	1	4			

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* ADERYN Y BWN

Uncommon but regular winter visitor and, since 2016, breeding species. RBBP: eight booming males in 2022. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	105	152
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Bittern: records away from breeding sites, 2001-23



Breeding season: nine booming males at four sites. GWENT: six fledged from two nests (apparently a single male) at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth); emaciated 1CY at Goldcliff in late Aug. was rehabilitated and released at Uskmouth on 12 Sept.; GOWER: site withheld on 25 May; ANGLESEY: four booming males and at least two nests at RSPB Valley Wetlands; three booming males and at least two nests at RSPB Cors Ddyga.

Non-breeding: numbers away from breeding sites above have been remarkably consistent in recent years. Single birds elsewhere in the first winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR on 1-7 Jan.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 18 Jan.; ANGLESEY: Tywyn Trewan on 9 Feb.

Second winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR on 25 July, 30 Sept. to 22 Oct. and 2-29 Dec.; Cosmeston Lakes CP on 20 Aug. and 5 Sept.; Parc Tredelerch on 3 Sept.; Cardiff Bay on 11 Oct. and 3 Nov.; Radyr floodplain on 13 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 8 Aug.; PEMBROKE: corpse on Saundersfoot beach on 18 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Dinlle on 23 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Malltraeth Cob on 5 Dec.

NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* CREYR NOS

Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 53 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Lamby Lake on 30-31 March; adult at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 15 May; CARMARTHEN: 2CY at Dafen Pond, Llanelli, on 27-29 April; PEMBROKE: adult at St Brides on 7 April; three at a site in the south of the county on 8-21 April, two until 1 May and one until 11th; CEREDIGION: adult and 2CY+ at RSPB Ynys-hir on 3 June; CAERNARFON: Afonwen on 7 May.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* CREYR BACH

Local but increasing breeder. RBBP: 97 nests at 15 sites in 2022. Fairly common autumn migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4561	5079
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	21%

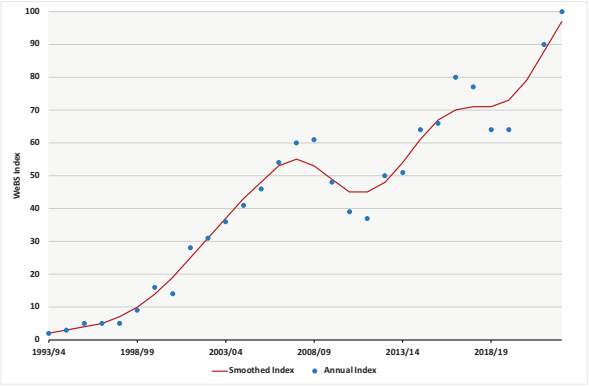
Breeding: min.79 AON. GWENT: 20 AON at Magor Marsh; GOWER: 5 AON at one site; CARMARTHEN: 25 AON at four sites; PEMBROKE: 1 AON at Sprinkle Pill; BRECON: possibly bred at up to five sites; MONTGOMERY: 3 AON at The Flash, Welshpool; CAERNARFON: 21 AON at Abercegin; 4 AON in Coed Benarth-Conwy; DENBIGH: 4 AON at Tal-y-cafn; FLINT: bred at Pt of Ayr.

2022 GWENT: 15 AON at Magor Marsh; 2021 GWENT, correction: 18 AON at two sites.

Non-breeding: another year-on-year increase of more than 10% in the WeBS index, which reached a record high, as did the BirdTrack reporting rate. The threshold for inclusion in the table has been increased from 30 to 40.

A roost of 233 at Penclacwydd on 12 Sept. was the largest ever in Wales. Post-breeding counts on the Dee estuary may reflect the growth in the colony at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Wirral, which numbered 91 nests (*cf.* 72 in 2022).

Little Egret in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



Sites with ≥40 Little Egret		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands	5	1	1	3	7	40	49	13	17	5	3	3
GOWER	Burry Inlet - south	10	51	29	15	12	31	10	68	74	75	12	22
GOWER/CARM	Loughor estuary	41	9	15	5	5	33	64	66	103	25	10	9
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	4	4	6	4	9	17	17	16	233	21	6	4
	Gwendraeth estuary	13	19	13			41	39	44	60	39	27	9
CER/MONT/MEI	Dyfi estuary	19	24	12	14	10	14	16	19	48	24	24	18
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	9	32	13	29	5	5	54	14	97	30	15	6
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	12	13	10	12	33	17	59	50	70	151	34	15
	Foryd	14	13	12	13	6	17	12	44	37	27	16	8
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	15	22	10	2	5	6	12	12	69	78	17	8
	Traeth Melynog	1	2	7	1		3	1	18	42	27	1	1
CAER/DENB	Conwy estuary	2	8	9	7	30	18	45	83	60	24	43	7
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	4	5	5	6	7	9	27	31	41	15	15	7
FLINT	CQNR/Oakenholt	3	11	8	5	4	16	60	50	160	42	7	2
	Bagillt	4	4	2	5	1	5	15	85	88	34	16	3
	Walwen		1	1	1	1	3	4	20	53	17	26	2
	Flint Marsh	4	5	2	1	3	2	4	2	32	8	8	2
	RSPB Border Pool	2		1	10	2	8	35	2	1	15		
	Point of Ayr	9	7	10	12	19	20	30	6	30	11	13	5

Other counts >40. GWENT: 50 at Nedern Valley on 11 July.

Highest inland counts. CARMARTHEN: 22 at Dryslwyn on 20 Dec.; RADNOR: 35 on R.Wye between Cwmbach and Llowes in Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 21 at Dolydd Hafren on 17 Dec.; DENBIGH: 11 at Llandyrnog on 24 Oct.

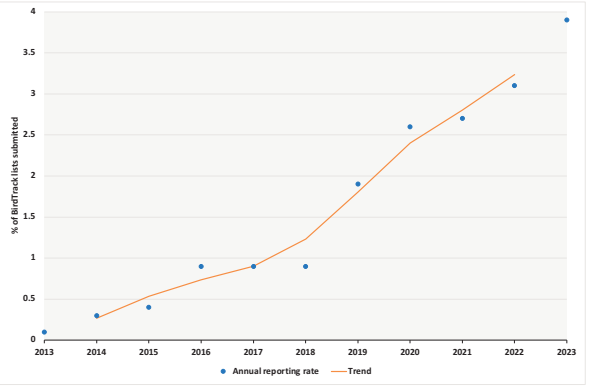
2020 GWENT, additional counts: 55 at Magor Marsh on 8 April and 36 here on 19 June; 46 at Nedern valley in June.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba* CREYR MAWR GWYN

Uncommon but increasingly regular visitor at any time of the year. RBBP: possibly bred in E.Glamorgan in 2020, and bred on Wirral side of the Dee estuary from 2019. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	960	1092
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Great White Egret in Wales 2013-23



Breeding season. E.GLAMORGAN: pair summered at Kenfig NNR.

Non-breeding: it is no longer feasible to calculate accurately the number of individuals in Wales, so the BirdTrack reporting rate is used to track their fortunes. Minimum monthly counts in each recording area (below) suggest a total very similar to the previous three years. Records on the Dee estuary, FLINT, in spring may have included two pairs that nested on the Wirral part of

Great White Egret: totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT		1		3	2	5	4	6	3	2	1	1
E.GLAMORGAN				1	5	1	2	1	4	4	4	
GOWER	8	9	3					2	6	9	1	8
CARMARTHEN	7	7	4	1				4	6	12	3	9
PEMBROKE				1			2	1	3	4	1	2
CEREDIGION	1	1	2	1	1		2	1	1		2	4
CER/MONT/MEI - Dyfi estuary	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	5	5	4	2
BRECON	8	9	7	3	1				3	3	3	3
RADNOR			7					1			1	
MONTGOMERY	5	4	3	1			2	2	2	4	3	15
MEIRIONNYDD	1				2	3	1		1	1	4	1
CAERNARFON		1				2	3		3	4		5
ANGLESEY	5	5	3	3	2	4	4	7	11	5	7	1
CAER/DENB - Conwy estuary	1		1	1		2	2	3	4	6	3	1
DENBIGH	1	1	2				2			1		
FLINT	2	5	3	1		4	3	6	19	7	3	2

Largest groups (included above). GWENT: five at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 29 June; GOWER: nine at Llanrhidian on 24 Feb. and eight here on 8 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: seven on Upper Tywi floodplain on 10 Oct.; CEREDIGION: five at RSPB Ynys-hir on 19 Oct.; BRECON: eight at Llangorse Lake on 23 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 13 roosted at Llyn Coed-y-dinas on 28 Dec.; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: six on Conwy est. on 18 Oct.; ANGLESEY: five over Inland Sea on 11 Nov.; FLINT: 18 at Sealand Ranges on 4 Sept.

2020 GWENT, corrected totals:

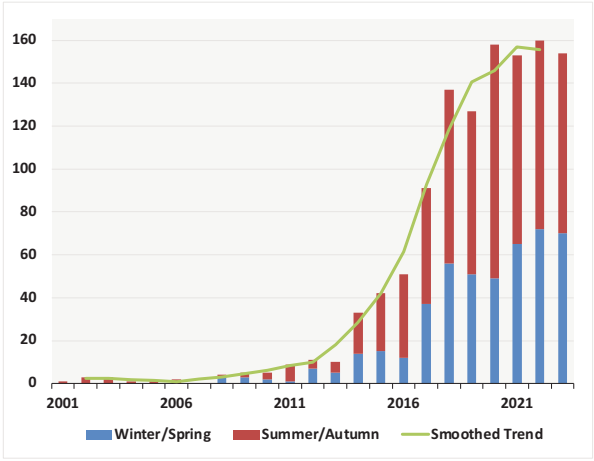
Great White Egret	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	3	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	1

CATTLE EGRET *Ardea ibis* CREYR GWARTHEG

Uncommon, but increasing, visitor from Europe. Nested just over the Flintshire border at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands in 2017, 2019 and 2020. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	280	450
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Cattle Egret: all records 2001-23, excluding presumed movements



It is now very difficult to be certain how many individuals occurred, especially those that move between counties, but the total was more than double the previous record in both spring and autumn. The BirdTrack reporting rate hit a record high, and over the last three years is nine times higher than in 2013-15. With 1-2 on the R.Wye in Radnorshire during the year, not listed in the table, 2023 was the first year that records occurred in every Welsh recording area.

The largest flock previously recorded in Wales was 17 in Pembrokeshire in 2021; that record was exceeded in both seasons in 2023. The continued increase in southwest England was illustrated by a single roost at Westhay Moor that contained an extraordinary 666 Cattle Egrets in November 2023. It is no longer practical to document every individual record, so these are summarised in the table.

Cattle Egret: total counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT				3	1		2		2	1	2	
E.GLAMORGAN								7	1	4		
GOWER	1							4	1	3		1
CARMARTHEN					1			3	12	4	1	4
PEMBROKE	2	27	2					4				
PEMB/CERE			1								2	
CEREDIGION	1	1						1	32			2
BRECON			1								1	
MONTGOMERY		1							32	30	7	4
MEIRIONNYDD									10	1		
CAERNARFON			1							7	6	1
ANGLESEY	2	2	1						1	17	9	7
DENBIGH									1	2	2	
FLINT			1						13	5	1	2

Notable counts included in the table. GOWER: 11 at Castell Ddu on 16 Sept., presumed same as CARMARTHEN: 12 at Penclacwydd on 4 Sept., a county record; PEMBROKE: 25 over Neyland on 1 Feb.; CEREDIGION: >28 at Ynyslas on 3 Sept., presumed same as MONTGOMERY: 32 at Cors Dyfi on 5 Sept.; 30 at Dolydd Hafren on 4 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 14 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 21 Oct., a county record; FLINT: 13 at Sealand Ranges on 11 Sept. (up to 21 in Oct. on Wirral side of Dee est.).

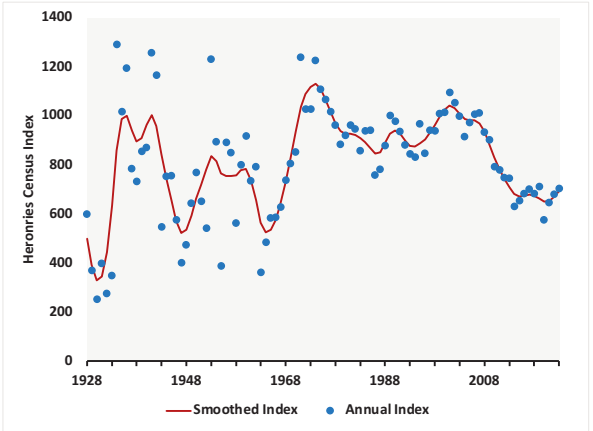
Grey Heron (Greta Hughes)

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* CREYR GLAS

Fairly common resident species. The BTO Heronries Census estimated 797 (694-951) AON in 2019. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	5053	5111
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	22%

Heronries Census: Grey Heron in Wales, 1928-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey trend (not shown) increased by 15% over 2022, taking the smoothed trend to its highest value since 2006 after 15 years below the 1995 baseline. The Heronries Census, which has shown little change in the last decade, is one-third lower than its value at the start of the century.

Apparently Occupied Nests. GWENT: 43 AON at six sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 6-8 AON at Treharris; bred at seven other

sites; GOWER: 20 AON at six sites; CARMARTHEN: 30 AON at seven sites; PEMBROKE: counts at six colonies, totalling 31 AON, largest of 14 AON at Westfield Pill; CEREDIGION: bred at Maesllyn, Cors Caron NNR and at Nanteos, where one nest still contained three young in late June; RADNOR: two sites on R.Wye, inc. 10 AON at Llandararn Fynydd; BRECON: 72 AON at four sites, largest of 29 AON at Ashford (Llandetty); MONTGOMERY: eight colonies, largest of 32 AON at The Flash, Welshpool; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Pennal and Tal-y-Llyn; CAERNARFON: 11 AON at Coed Benarth, Conwy; 9 AON at Porth Penrhyn; DENBIGH: 11 AON at Lleweni watermeadows; 2 AON at Tal-y-cafn and Erddig; min. 1 AON at Bryn Rhyd yr Arian, Llansannan.

Non-breeding: in contrast to the BBS index, the Wetland Bird Survey index was 21% lower than in 2021/22 and the smoothed trend is back to levels last seen in the mid-1990s. The BirdTrack reporting rate has also fallen since 2013-15, by 9%.

Sites with ≥10 Grey Heron		*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Nedern Valley	3	2		1	4		22			10	12	7
	Magor Marsh	3	15	13	7	5	3	1	1	4		1	2
E.GLAMORGAN	Ogmore estuary/flood	2	11	6	3	2	1	3	8	3	8	13	14
GOWER	Burry Inlet - south	1	1	1	4	2	2	1	5	14	4	2	4
CARMARTHEN	Burry Inlet - north	4	2	3	2	1	6	4	12	13	3	2	4
PEMBROKE	Cleddau estuary	5	9	9	6	1	10	24	4	12	15	9	6
BRECON	Llangorse Lake	21	21	15	3	1	1	1	3	6	3	4	4
MEIR/CAER	Glaslyn/Dwyryd est.	1	18	4	1	2	4	1	1	1	6	2	3
CAERNARFON	Traeth Lafan	24	6	4	2	9	1	2	6	12	8	4	28
ANGLESEY	Beddmanarch-Cymyran	6	10	8		15	1	P	P	5	14	2	3
	RSPB Cors Ddyga	10	4	3	6	5	19	5	4	11	10	3	5
	Traeth Melynog	1	1		1		2		1	5	3	40	
CAER/DENB	Conwy estuary	15	13	8	9	14	18	20	4	10	5	10	2
DENBIGH	Clwyd estuary	2	1	1	1	2	6	5	8	10	11	2	3
	Lleweni watermeadows	11	14	14	7	6	6	5	1	1	8	8	12
FLINT	CQNR/Oakenholt	11	6	6	5	1	4	14	7	15	10	11	8

Counts ≥10 elsewhere. E.GLAMORGAN: 11 at Parc Aberdare on 18 Dec.; 17 at Cog Moors on 21 Dec.; GOWER: 11 roosted on R.Neath, on 16 Jan. and 14 here on 3 Sept.; 14 at Wernffrwd on 17 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 17 at Bishop's Pond, Abergwili, on 2 March; BRECON/RADNOR: 14 on R.Wye at Glasbury in Sept.-Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 10 at Hen Domen on 24 Oct.; 10 on Wern floods on 1 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 20 on Seiont est. on 1 Sept.; 10 at Rhos Pt on 30 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 24 at Ynys Welltog on 29 Jan. and 28 here on 17 Dec.; 10 at Cefni Res. on 28 Jan.; 13 at RSPB South Stack on 27 Sept.; 28 between Britannia Bridge and Gallow's Pt on 17 Dec.; FLINT: 11 on Sealand Ranges on 4 Sept.

2022 GWENT: 42 AON at six sites; DENBIGH, additional breeding sites: 18 AON at Llyn-y-briw; 3 AON at Valle Crucis; 2021 GWENT: 64 AON at eight sites; 2020 GWENT: 11 AON at Llandegfedd Res. and bred at a second site but lockdown restrictions prevented further monitoring.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* CREYR PORFFOR

Scarce visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 77 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: Cwmbach Wetlands from 29 April to 3 May; Kenfig NNR on 25-26 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 20-21 May; PEMBROKE: Castlemartin Corse on 6-11 May; CAERNARFON: Llanengan on 3 April.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* GWALCH PYSGOD

Rare breeder since 2004. RBBP: seven nests and seven other territories in 2022. Elsewhere, an uncommon passage migrant.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	379	274
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding. Another record year saw 23 chicks fledge from 11 nests, three other nests were constructed and pairs summered at seven other sites. At Llyn Clywedog, a new nest site was occupied by Blue Z5, the first Welsh-hatched female to breed in Wales.

CARMARTHEN: two spent mid-summer at each of two sites; BRECON: two nests built and lined from early July, presumably by immature pairs, at Talybont-on-Usk and near Builth Wells (the latter on a former Raven platform) but neither was occupied; RADNOR: pairs summered at two sites; MONTGOMERY: two fledged at Cors Dyfi; two nests at Llyn Clywedog, fledged one and two respectively (although one of the latter was killed on the nest by a Goshawk around 10 days after fledging); MEIRIONNYDD: two fledged at Glaslyn; three fledged at each of two nests in the north of the county; two other nests, from which one fledged two chicks and the other at which the outcome was unknown; 1-2 other pairs over-summered; CAERNARFON: three fledged at Pont Croesor and a second nest in the south of the county also fledged three; DENBIGH: two fledged at Llyn Brenig; a second nest in Mynydd Hiraethog failed at the egg stage.

The welcome expansion of breeding Ospreys in Wales makes it difficult now to distinguish migrants from those holding territories, so we no longer try to estimate the numbers occurring in each month. Perhaps surprisingly given the increased population, the BirdTrack reporting rate has increased by only 22% in the last decade. The trend of birds remaining at sites in autumn continued, including in GWENT: up to three at Llandegfedd Res. from 27 Aug. to 9 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: up to three in Gwendraeth est. from 27 Aug. to 16 Sept.; PEMBROKE: two in Cleddau est. from 5 July to 16 Sept.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Osprey	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	4 April	Llandegfedd Reservoir	10 Oct.	Llandegfedd Reservoir
E.GLAMORGAN	20 April	Parc Slip NR	6 Oct.	Merthyr Mawr
GOWER	**18 March**	**Swansea & Tawe estuary**	1 Oct.	Weobley
CARMARTHEN	18 April	Pwll	21 Oct.	Ginst Point
PEMBROKE	23 March	Landshipping	**13 Nov.**	**Tenby**
CEREDIGION	27 March	Dyfi estuary	26 Sept.	Devil's Bridge
BRECON	18 April	Ffordd Fawr	15 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	30 March	Glasbury	6 Oct.	Clyro
MONTGOMERY	25 March	Llyn Clywedog	13 Sept.	Cors Dyfi
MEIRIONNYDD	3 April	Glaslyn valley	8 Sept.	Glaslyn valley
CAERNARFON	27 March	Pont Croesor	22 Oct.	Caernarfon
ANGLESEY	22 March	Penmon & Traeth Coch	30 Sept.	Inland Sea
DENBIGH	2 April	Llyn Brenig	21 Aug.	Llyn Brenig
FLINT	27 March	Connah's Quay NR	16 Aug.	Waun-y-Llyn CP

2020 GWENT, corrected totals:

Osprey: total counts	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1	1			3	3	2		

BLACK-WINGED KITE *Elanus caeruleus* BARCUD YSGWYDD-DDU

Extremely rare vagrant from southern Europe, not previously recorded in Wales in a wild state.

This was the first ever to be accepted as wild in Britain. One in the Elan Valley, Breconshire/Radnorshire, in 2010 was considered not to be of wild origin.

MONTGOMERY: 2CY at Glan-Mule on 18 April, subsequently seen at several sites in eastern England in July.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* BODA MEL

Rare breeder since 1992. Population estimated at 14-20 pairs but under-reported. RBBP: 3-6 pairs in 2022. Rare on passage elsewhere. Wales Red listed.

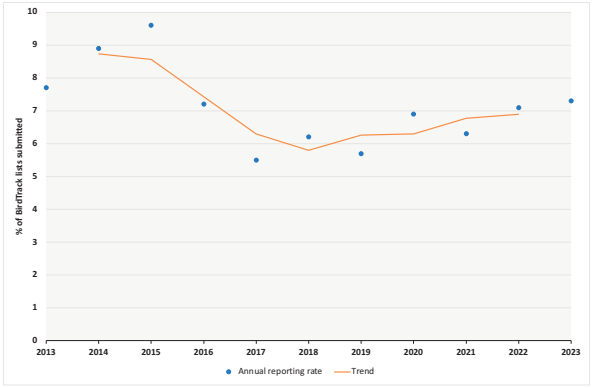
Breeding. GOWER: pair bred successfully, the male having been ringed as a chick previously in the county. A South Wales photographer was convicted of disturbing a pair without a Schedule 1 licence, and in June 2024 received fines and costs totalling £1620. No passage records were reported.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* GWALCH GLAS

Fairly common resident (2950 breeding pairs).

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1937	1987
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Sparrowhawk in Wales 2013-23



There is no Wales BBS trend but that for the UK as a whole fell by 23% during 1995-2022 and the BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen by 21% since 2013-15. The BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate has, however, remained pretty stable over the last 15 years.

GOSHAWK *Astur gentilis* GWALCH MARTH

(Re)introduced (Category C) breeding resident, probably in all Welsh counties (310 pairs). RBBP: 48-140 pairs in 2022. Wales Amber listed.

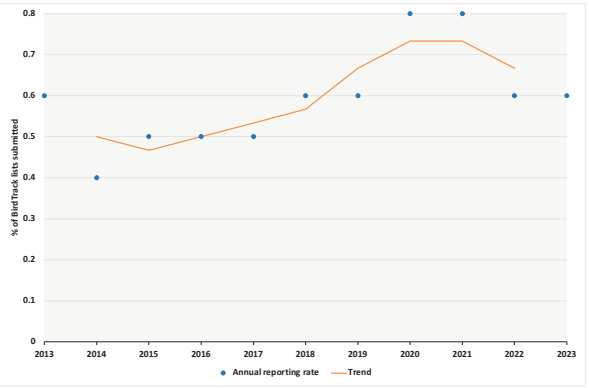
	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	223	222
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The only indication of a trend comes from the BirdTrack reporting rate, which has increased by 34% since 2013-15.

Breeding season records. GWENT: probably bred at three sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at two sites, and probably/possibly at three others; GOWER: one confirmed and five possible nests; CARMARTHEN: possibly bred in Brechfa Forest; PEMBROKE: present at six sites, although breeding proven at only one; BRECON: bred at three sites and possibly at 17 others; MONTGOMERY: two

nests and singles at three other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at one site in the south and probably at three others; CAERNARFON: records from six sites, inc. one where breeding was proven; DENBIGH: bred at one site; at least two pairs in Clocaenog Forest.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Goshawk in Wales 2013-23



Selected records in other counties. ANGLESEY: eight records during the year, three in the same location, but none between 22 March and 3 Aug.; FLINT: four records during the year, three in the same location, but none between 9 April and 28 Aug.

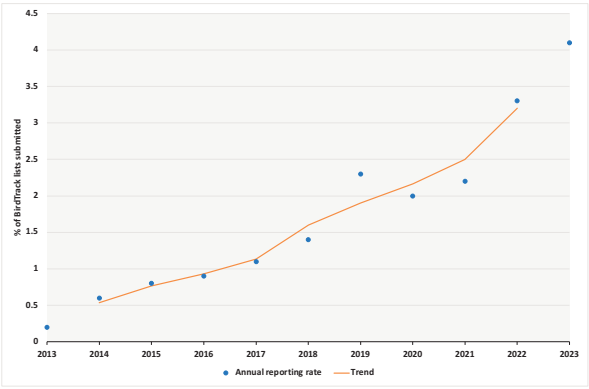
2020 GWENT: bred at 12 sites and probably at another 24.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* BODA'R GWERNI

Rare breeder. RBBP: seven nests in three counties in 2022. Small numbers winter.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	951	1091
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Marsh Harrier in Wales 2013-23



The BirdTrack reporting rate reached a new high, and the three-year average has increased six-fold since 2013-15. This was, at least in part, a result of increased numbers wintering, with a record minimum 29 in winter 2022/23.

Seven nests, as in 2022, but there was also breeding season evidence in four other counties where there have been no recent breeding records. GWENT: three young fledged from nest at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth); GOWER: pair bred; PEMBROKE: male collected nest material at Castlemartin Corse in May; CEREDIGION: two females and a male on Dyfi est. to 25 May and from 11 July; CAERNARFON: male displayed at a site on Llŷn but no evidence of breeding; ANGLESEY: four fledged from two nests at RSPB Cors Ddyga and a third nest failed; two nests at RSPB Valley Wetlands fledged three young, the first time with more than one nest here; DENBIGH: pair at Fenn's Moss in early summer; female around Ruabon Moor in April/May.

Numbers in each county, excluding those at sites listed above.

Marsh Harrier: total counts	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1	2		1	1		1	1			1	
E.GLAMORGAN		1	2	1	1			2	1	2	2	
GOWER	1	1	2	2				1	2	1	1	2
CARMARTHEN	3	4	1	3		1	1	2	2	3	3	2
PEMBROKE	2	1		3	3	1	1	5	11-12	5	3	3
CEREDIGION	2		2	2					1	1		
BRECON	1				1					2		
MONTGOMERY			1					1	1			1
MEIRIONNYDD		1	1	1					1	1		1
CAERNARFON		1	1					7	1		1	
ANGLESEY	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	1		1
DENBIGH	1			3	3			1				
FLINT	4	2	4	3	1	2	1	3	3	2	7	4

2020 GWENT: the breeding pair at Newport Wetlands Reserve fledged three young; no longer possible to assess numbers elsewhere, since many records related to these and two others present at the site in spring.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* BODA TINWEN

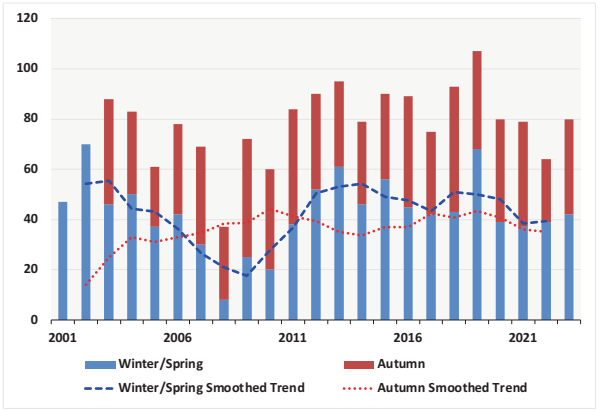
Rare breeder in the uplands of north and mid-Wales. RBBP: 66 young fledged from 36 pairs in 2022, with an additional 12 territories. Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	316	316
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding. A survey by the RSPB recorded 40 territorial pairs, 14% more than in 2016 (*cf.* 49 territorial pairs from monitoring in 2022), 6% of the UK total. Numbers remained relatively stable on grass moor (17%, *cf*. 20% in 2016), but a greater proportion were on heather moor (81%, *cf.* 70% in 2016). 65% of territories were recorded in the two Special Protection Areas designated for breeding Hen Harrier: 16 in Berwyn and 10 in Migneint-Arenig-Dduallt (RSPB Centre for Conservation Science in litt.)

Monitoring of 29 nesting attempts, principally by RSPB Cymru and Keith Offord, recorded 71 fledged young (2.45/nest).

Hen Harrier: sum of max. in each county, 2000/01-2022/23



BRECON: pair probably bred; RADNOR: two pairs fledged young and present at four other sites; MONTGOMERY: four territories, inc. three nests that fledged six young at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: 15 territories, inc. three nests that fledged six at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy (different to Montgomeryshire), four nests fledged 12 elsewhere in Berwyn and seven nests fledged 19 in Migneint; CAERNARFON: five territories in Y Carneddau, inc. three nests that fledged 11 young; DENBIGH: 15 territories, inc. four in Mynydd

Hiraethog where three young fledged from three nests, six nests in North Berwyn fledged 20, two nests in Migneint fledged six (different to Meirionnydd above) and north of the Dee Valley, one probable nest and one territorial pair but outcome unknown.

Non-breeding: although the BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen 41% since 2013-15, records from all sources indicate that numbers have been consistent for the last decade.

Approximate numbers in each county, excluding those listed in the breeding season above.

Hen Harrier: total counts	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT										1		1
E.GLAMORGAN			2					1	2	3	2	
GOWER	3	5	1							3	2	3
CARMARTHEN	6	4	2					1	2	1	5	5
PEMBROKE	5	5	5	2	3	1			3	6	10	4
CEREDIGION	3	5	4	1			1			1	4	3
CER/MONT/MEI – Dyfi est.	2	2	2							2	2	2
BRECON	1	2		2				1	2	2	3	
MONTGOMERY												1
MEIRIONNYDD	1								1	2	1	2
CAERNARFON	1	2	1	2	1				3	3	2	1
ANGLESEY	6	2	4	3	1				2	2	1	1
DENBIGH			1	1						1	1	
FLINT	2							1		1	1	

Additionally, 1-2 recorded at 10 sites in RADNOR.

2020 GWENT, corrected totals:

Hen Harrier	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2	2	1						1	3	4	

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus* BODA LLWYDWYN

Very rare vagrant from eastern Europe, but range has expanded westwards. BBRC: three previous records.

All records were considered to be the same individual. PEMBROKE: 1CY on Skokholm on 23 Nov.; GOWER: 1CY at Llanrhidian Marsh and adjacent sites on 30 Nov. and various dates to 15 April 2024, same as CARMARTHEN at Penclacwydd on several dates during 10-31 Dec. to 14 April 2024, the first for both recording areas.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* BARCUD COCH

Recovered population following near extinction early in the 20th century (1350 breeding pairs), although remains uncommon within 30km of many coasts. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2404	2733
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	9%

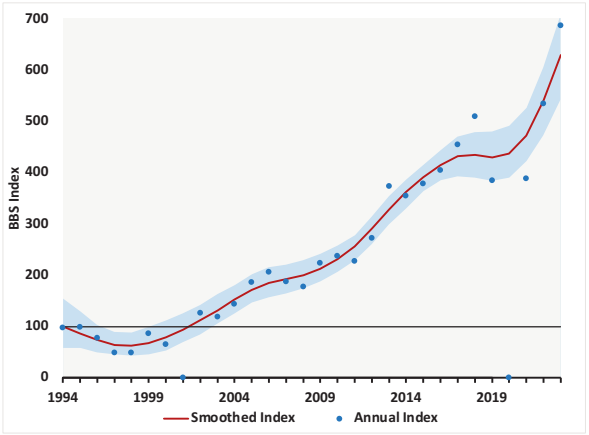
The recovery of Red Kites in Wales continues, with the Breeding Bird Survey index at a new high. The 522% increase is the greatest of any native species in Wales over the long-term. The BirdTrack reporting rate also hit a new high, and the three-year mean is now 62% above 2013-15. The *Ceredigion Bird Report* summarised results of a survey in the central part of the

county that found 32 territories, of which 20 pairs nested, all successfully except for three. Eight of the 20 were in a 1-km section of steep-sided valley, the closest two being only 100m apart.

Selected breeding records outside core area. GOWER: one pair probably bred; ANGLESEY: 1-2 pairs bred in the centre of the island.

Among the larger counts included below, 86 at Defynnog, Breconshire, may well be the largest recorded in Wales away from a feeding station. CARMARTHEN: 31 at Salem, Llandeilo, on 19 Dec.; 26 at Llangadog on 8 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 40 south over Porth Clais in 30 minutes on 20 May; CEREDIGION: up to 200 at Bwlch Nant-yr-arian feeding station (max. on 10 July); BRECON: 39 roosted at Defynnog on 1 Jan. and 86 here on 15th; 40 roosted at Pwllgloyw on 13 Jan.; RADNOR: up to 300 at Gigrin Farm feeding station throughout the year (max. on 10 May), inc. two leucistic birds in Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 18 in Cwm Maen Gwynedd on 25 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: *c*.50 in Tywyn area on 21 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 10 over Dolgarrog on 19 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 13 at Cemaes and five at Pentraeth on 26 May; DENBIGH: 10 near Llangwm on 6 Sept.; 19 south of Llanelidan on 23 Dec.; FLINT: five over Shotton on 26 May.

Breeding Bird Survey: Red Kite in Wales, 1994-2023



2020 GWENT: five nests recorded, but considered a significant underestimate based on sightings elsewhere.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* BARCUD DU

Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 30 previous records.

CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 6 Sept.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* ERYR MOR

Scarce visitor from mainland Europe; there is no evidence that birds from re-established populations in Scotland or Ireland have occurred in Wales. WBRC: three records since 1910.

MEIRIONNYDD: Cwm Prysor from at least 3 Dec. into 2024.

See also p.244 for details of translocated birds from the southern England reintroduction project.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* BWNCATH

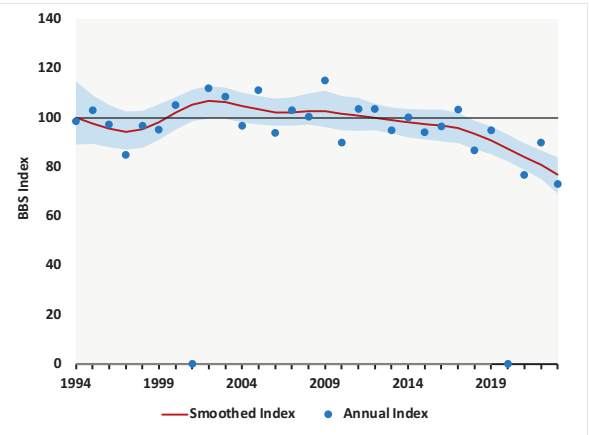
Fairly common and widespread breeding resident (9850-13,500 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	6295	6440
% of BirdTrack lists	27%	26%

Buzzard numbers have been declining slowly for the last decade. The Breeding Bird Survey index and the BirdTrack reporting rate were their lowest yet, respectively 17% below 1995 and 9% below 2013-15.

Large counts. CARMARTHEN: 18 near Llyn Pencarreg on 25 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 15 at Cors Caron on 17 April; BRECON/RADNOR: 30 in fields between Elan Village and Rhayader on 21 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 15 at Garreg Ddu on 13 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 12 over Bardsey on 15 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 17 at Mynydd Bodafon on 4 Sept.; FLINT: 11 at Connah's Quay NR on 13 Sept.

Breeding Bird Survey: Buzzard in Wales, 1994-2023

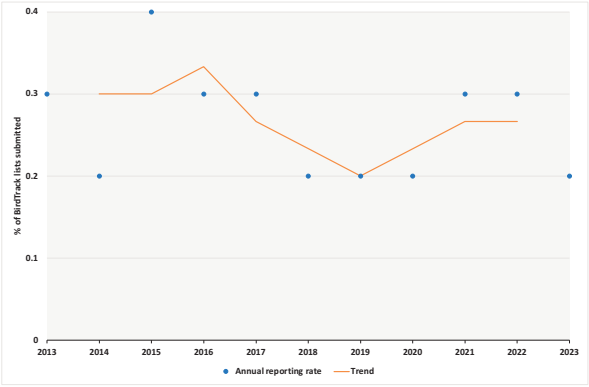


BARN OWL *Tyto alba* TYLLUAN WEN

Uncommon breeding resident in all counties (633-728 pairs). Population probably stable in the long term, but annual numbers vary considerably. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	136	107
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Barn Owl in Wales 2013-23



Breeding: 690 young ringed at 194 nests containing broods (3.56 young/nest, *cf.* 2.88 in 2022). Data from Barn Owl Trust 2023, Goldcliff Ringing Group, Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group and Species Habitat Protection Group, Neath and Port Talbot BO Group and individual ringers in other counties.

Other breeding season records. E.GLAMORGAN: three pairs at Newport Wetlands; bred in Nelson church tower, at Mynydd y Fforest and at a farm near Porthcawl, and singles at 17 other sites; CARMARTHEN: two confirmed breeding records; single birds at three sites; PEMBROKE: single birds at six sites; CEREDIGION: territory at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: bred at Llanwrthwl and Abergwesyn, and possibly at four other sites; MONTGOMERY: territory at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: bred near Dolgellau and Llyn Tegid, and

Barn Owl: breeding productivity	*Nests*	*Young ringed*	*Young/nest*
GWENT	23	67	2.9
E.GLAMORGAN	26	70	2.7
GOWER	14	55	3.9
CEREDIGION	14	63	4.5
BRECON	3	15	5.0
MONTGOMERY	90	351	3.9
CAERNARFON	7	20	2.9
DENBIGH	13	44	3.4
FLINT	2	5	2.5

probably at seven other sites; CAERNARFON: near Llandygai on 2 June; ANGLESEY: four fledged from a nest at RSPB Cors Ddyga; probably bred at Aberffraw; DENBIGH: bred at Lleweni watermeadows.

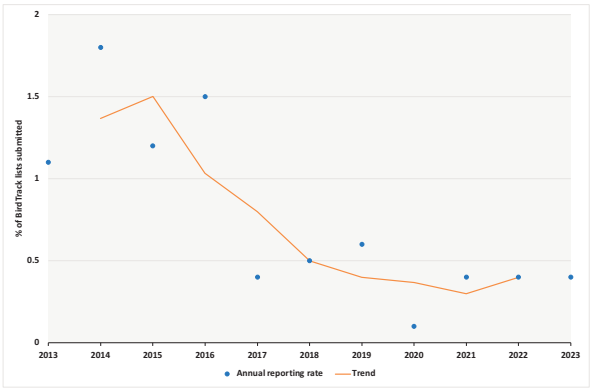
2020 GWENT: five pairs bred successfully in Usk valley south of Abergavenny; five pairs nested on the Caldicot Levels, four successfully.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* TYLLUAN FACH

Introduced (Category C), localised and declining breeding resident (250-300 pairs).

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	112	94
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Little Owl in Wales 2013-23



The mean BirdTrack reporting rate fell by 70% between 2013-15 and 2021-23, illustrating how many parts of Wales have lost Little Owls. Records came from 33 sites, a 30% increase on the previous year, with breeding confirmed at two. The individual on Skomer was the first island record since 2018, showing that there must be a source for new arrivals.

Breeding season, singles unless stated. GWENT: pair at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); one near Ebbw Vale in May; Llanwenarth in July; E.GLAMORGAN: pair at Ogmore Down, singles at Kenfig NNR, Coed Hills and Tair Croes Down; PEMBROKE: two territories on Ramsey; Skomer from 2 June to at least 15 Nov.; CEREDIGION: brood of at least two at an unnamed site; Llanfarian on 23 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: Caersws on 11 June; MEIRIONNYDD: Arthog on 24 April; CAERNARFON: recently fledged juv. on Bardsey; Mynythno on 10 June; near Llangwnnadl on 12 June; ANGLESEY: pair fledged one at Cemlyn; territorial pair at RSPB South Stack; DENBIGH: Rossett on 1 May (and 14 Jan.); Trefnant on 5 May and 22 Aug.

Records elsewhere outside the breeding season, all singles. GWENT: three sites between Whitson and Mathern; E.GLAMORGAN: Monknash on 24 Feb. and Pentyrch; BRECON: Cradoc in Feb.; RADNOR: Hundred House, Clyro and New Radnor; MONTGOMERY: Nant Dulas on 28 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Llanbedrog on 27 Jan.; Uwchmynydd on 25 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Rhoscolyn on 27 Jan.; Aberffraw in Jan., March, Sept. and Dec.; Trearddur Bay on 30 Aug. and 1 Sept.; Llyn Traffwll on 19 Sept.; Breakwater CP on 27 Oct.; FLINT: Rhuddlan NR on 29 July; Holywell Common on 30 Sept.

2020 GWENT, additional records: probably nested at Great Newra; singles at four other sites.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* TYLLUAN GORNIOG

Uncommon resident, perhaps c.100 breeding pairs, mainly in conifer woodland. RBBP: 4-6 pairs in 2022. Uncommon passage migrant in a broader suite of habitats. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	7	11
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding confirmed at three sites. GWENT: bred near Blaenavon; E.GLAMORGAN: pair fledged two at Rest Bay, the first confirmed breeding in the recording area since 1918; possibly bred at another site; CARMARTHEN: possibly bred near Myddfai; MONTGOMERY: territory at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: one near Maentwrog in May; DENBIGH: bred in Ceiriog Forest.

Non-breeding records, singles unless stated. GWENT: Black Rock on 27 March; E.GLAMORGAN: two roosted at Kenfig NNR on 19 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 19 March; RADNOR: three sites; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 25 March, at least two here on 17-22 Oct. and a freshly-dropped primary on 14 Sept.; dead at roadside near Penrhyn Bay on 15 Aug.

2020 GWENT, corrected total: five pairs bred and two other territories.

Short-eared Owl (Michael Thackeray)

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

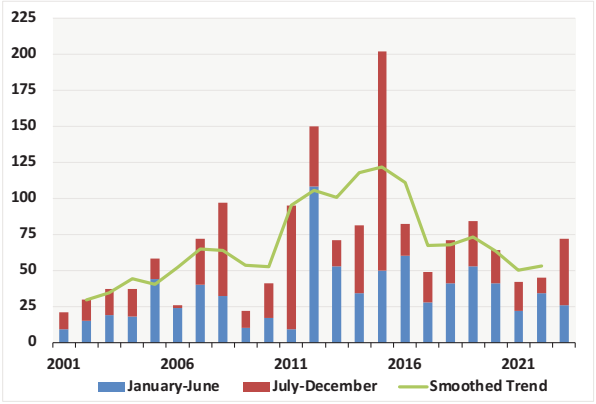
Uncommon breeding resident. RBBP: 5-10 pairs in 2022. Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	119	135
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Four pairs nested at two sites. PEMBROKE: three pairs on Skomer, from which young fledged but number uncertain; RADNOR: records from four sites but no proven breeding; MONTGOMERY: pair nested at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; ANGLESEY: present at Aberffraw in April to at least early June but no proven breeding; DENBIGH: bird hunting in North Berwyn on 5 and 17 May but no evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding: the largest autumn total since 2015's influx, including up to 12 on the Taf estuary, CARMARTHEN, during November and records from 10 sites in Radnorshire in December. Generally, however, encounters have diminished markedly since 2017, reflected in an 85% reduction in the three-year mean BirdTrack reporting rate since 2013-15.

Short-eared Owl: sum of peak counts at each site (excluding breeding records), 2001-23



SE Owl: total counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	2		1	4	2		1			1
E.GLAMORGAN	1		2		1		1	1	3	
GOWER								1	1	
CARMARTHEN								3	12	4
PEMBROKE			3	1			4	9	3	3
CEREDIGION		1						6	3	2
BRECON	3	1	2	1				1		4
RADNOR			1							10
MONTGOMERY			1					1		
MEIRIONNYDD								1	1	
CAERNARFON			2	2	2		4	12	2	1
ANGLESEY	1	1		2	1		1	6	3	3-5
DENBIGH	3		1				1	1	1	5
FLINT			2		1			3	1	

2020 GWENT, amended non-breeding:

SE Owl: total counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	4	3	1	1			1			2	2

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* TYLLUAN FRECH

Fairly common and widespread, but declining, breeding resident in all counties (2550-3800 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	521	577
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The BirdTrack reporting rate had been slowly increasing, but has dropped back in the last two years, although it is likely to be very under-recorded by this method. The autumn peak in records around gardens was measured by a reporting rate of 7% in September, fairly typical for the BTO Garden BirdWatch.

Sites with a calling bird during the year. GWENT: bred at four sites and probably at another 30;

E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 10 sites and present at >50 others; GOWER: bred at Nant Crag-yr-aber, Mynydd Dinas and Cwm Clydach, present at 28 other sites; CARMARTHEN: bred at Garnant, RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas and Salem, and present at 17 other sites; PEMBROKE: bred at Porthgain and present at 36 other sites; CEREDIGION: records from 25 locations; BRECON: bred at five sites and present at 34 others; RADNOR: bred in Nant-y-sarn, Llaithddu and present at 15 other sites; MONTGOMERY: bred at Abermule and present at 20 other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at two sites in lower Wnion Valley, and present at another 12; CAERNARFON: bred at six sites and present at 38 others; ANGLESEY: present at 14 sites, inc. four at Benllech in Nov.; DENBIGH: bred at Fenn's Moss and Froncysyllte, and present at *c*.30 other sites; FLINT: bred at Penycloddiau and Caerwys, and present at 17 other sites.

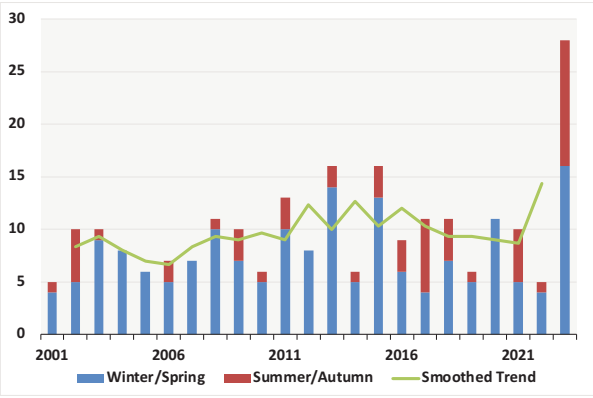
2020 GWENT: 17 pairs bred, including a clutch among Mallard eggs in a nest in a willow near Llanfair Kilgeddin from which one fledged.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* COPOG

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	9	60
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Hoopoe: all records, 2001-23



After the lowest total for more than 20 years in 2022, arrivals to southwest Wales in spring and more widely in autumn made 2023 the best year of the century, and quite possibly since recording began. All were single birds.

Spring. CARMARTHEN: Ferryside from 27 March to 6 April; Nantycaws from 29 March to 6 April; PEMBROKE: Marloes from 16 Feb. to 19 March; Tavernspite on 22 March; Skomer on 20-21 April; Caldey on 21 April; Ramsey on 23 April; St Justinians on 24 April; Carn Ingli on 5 May; Bedd Morris on 6 May; Pantmaenog Forest on 8 June; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 13 April; Abermagwr on 29 April; RADNOR: Llandrindod Wells on 17-19 April; CAERNARFON: Rhoshirwaun on 8-13 April; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 4 April.

Autumn. GWENT: Bishton on 19-20 Aug.; Newport Wetlands Reserve on 10 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: Wenvoe Quarry on 27 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 6 and 15 Sept.; Skokholm on 6-7 and 9-15 Sept.; Dale airfield on 10-15 Sept.; BRECON: Cradoc on 23-27 Sept., third county record; CAERNARFON: Rhoshirwaun on 8-10 Oct. and 11-12 Nov.; Uwchmynydd on 19 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Aberffraw on 16 Sept.

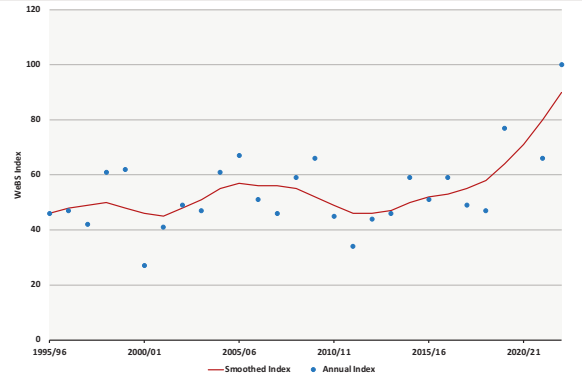
2020 GWENT, additional record: Llanover on 4 May.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* GLAS Y DORLAN

Resident in lowland areas (445-970 breeding pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1265	1155
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	4%

Wetland Bird Survey: Kingfisher in Wales 1974/75-2022/23



The UK indices for the Breeding Bird Survey and the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey have been fairly stable, although showed different trends in 2023 relative to the previous year. The Wetland Bird Survey annual index was 30% higher in 2022/23 than its previous peak in 2019/20, although the numbers involved are relatively small. The mean BirdTrack reporting rate has increased by 15% since 2013-15.

Breeding season. GWENT: bred at six sites and present at 15 others; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Ystrad Mynach Park and Pwll Waun Cynon NR, and probably at seven other sites; GOWER: probably bred on R.Afan; present at seven other sites; CARMARTHEN: pair raised two broods at Penclacwydd; bred at Bishop's Pond, Abergwili, and probably at Nantgaredig; PEMBROKE: bred or probably bred at four sites; CEREDIGION: possibly bred at RSPB Ynys-hir and New Quay; BRECON: probably bred at Llangorse Lake, Pont Nantyrharn, Brecon and Sennybridge, and possibly at five other sites; RADNOR: bred at Dol Frwynog and possibly at Elan Village and Glasbury; MONTGOMERY: probably bred at Dolydd Hafren; MEIRIONNYDD: singles at Tal-y-llyn in June and July, and Ceunant Llennyrch NNR on 11 July; CAERNARFON: singles at eight sites; ANGLESEY: probably bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga (first for site) and Nant y Pandy NR, and possibly at Cors Crugyll; DENBIGH: recorded at eight sites, all singles in the Alyn and Dee valleys; FLINT: breeding season records from six sites.

2020 GWENT: breeding records from six sites.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* PENGAM

Uncommon but regular passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn. RBBP: two sites in 2021. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	17	81
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

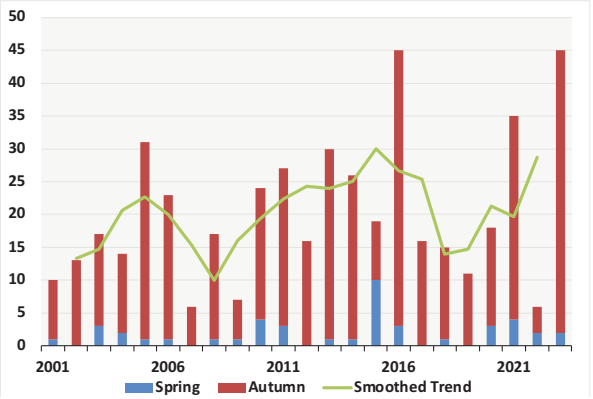
Similar to Hoopoe, a low total in 2022 preceded large numbers in 2023, due almost entirely to a small influx into Pembrokeshire in the second and third weeks of September, which made the number of individuals difficult to ascertain. The total of 37 in that county should be regarded as a minimum. Six on Skomer on 9 September was the largest site/day count ever in Wales, while one on Skokholm until 21 Nov. was the latest ever migrant record in Wales (*cf*. 12 Nov. 2014), notwithstanding two overwintering records in the 1960s. Singles unless stated.

Spring. PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 19 April; Skomer on 20 April.

Autumn. E.GLAMORGAN: Caerphilly on 4-5 Oct.; GOWER: Oxwich Marsh, caught and ringed, on 8 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Treffgarne on 25 Aug.; Tan-y-mynydd on 5 Sept.; Strumble Head and Ramsey on 6 Sept.; at least nine on Skomer during 6-15 Sept. (six on 9th); four on St David's Head on 7-8 Sept., with 1-2 here until 17th; three on Marloes peninsula on 7 Sept., four here on 8th, one on 9th, two on 10th and 12th, and singles

on 14-16th and 21st; Porth Gwyn on 8 Sept.; two on Skokholm on 8 Sept., singles here on 9-13th, on 12 dates between 17 Sept. and 2 Oct. (min. three birds inc. two on 26th), and from 14 Oct. (perhaps the 8th) to 21 Nov., the latest ever island record; Castlemartin Corse on 17 and 21-22 Sept.; St Brides on 21 Sept.; St Justinians on 22-24 Sept.; Broad Haven on 1 Oct.; Mullock Bridge on 3 Oct.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi Marshes on 28 Aug. and 7 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: Llandanwg on 8 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 10-15 Sept.; Aberdaron on 23 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Rhoscolyn on 1 Oct.

Wryneck: all records, 2001-23

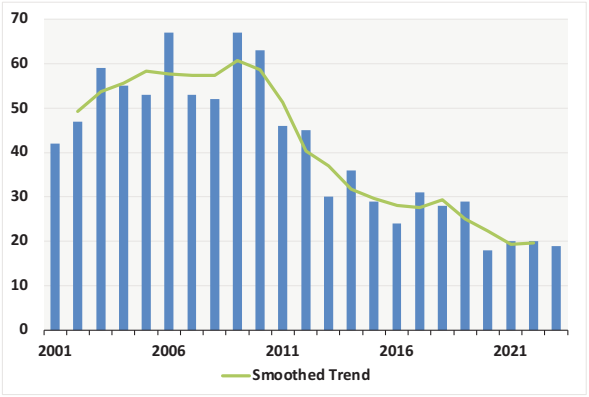


LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dryobates minor* CNOCELL FRAITH FACH

Rare breeding resident (105-320 pairs), principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys. RBBP: 10 territories in 2022. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	5	20
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: sum of sites with records, 2001-23



The total of 13 breeding season records was similar to that in 2022, with no proven nesting for the second consecutive year. GOWER: Cwm Clydach on 12 May; CARMARTHEN: RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas on 22 March; Llangadog on 21 July; CEREDIGION: Llangwyryfon on 18 March; Llechwedd Einion on 2 April; Nanteos pool on 1 May; BRECON: Nant Sgithwen on 1-3 March; drumming at Cilwych Wood on 25 April and Cathedine Common on 27th; RADNOR: called at three sites in March-May; DENBIGH: Pwllglas on 23 April.

Single birds at other sites outside the breeding season. E.GLAMORGAN: Nantgarw on 1 Feb.; Radyr Woods on 22 Feb.; BRECON: Pencelli on 17 Jan.; two at Builth Wells GC on 22 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: Coed Cwm Bychan on 7 Sept.

2022 FLINT: Fagl Lane GP on several dates in spring and summer.

2020 GWENT, additional records: drumming at Wyesham on 23 March; near Osbaston on 4-6 April; the record at Magor Marsh published in *Welsh Bird Report 2020* should be disregarded.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (Michael Thackeray)

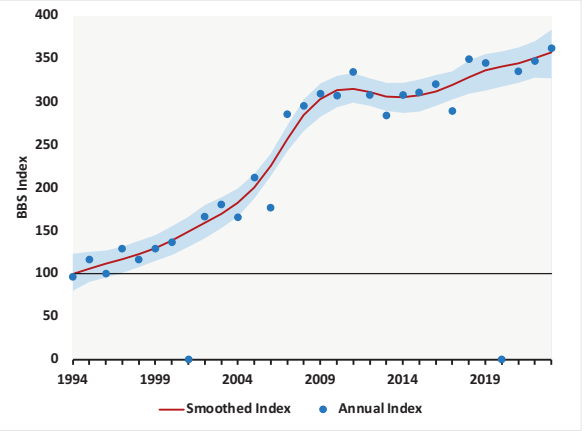
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* CNOCELL FRAITH FAWR

Fairly common breeding resident (21,500 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	4000	4320
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	19%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales increased by 231% during 1995-2022, reaching another new high, and the mean BirdTrack reporting rate is 35% higher than in 2013-15. The annual peak in the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate, in summer when young have fledged, was 51%, similar to most years since 2017. Seasonal movements in Wales are hard to detect, but one on Ramsey, PEMBROKE, on 8 Oct. was notable.

Breeding Bird Survey: Great Spotted Woodpecker in Wales, 1994-2023



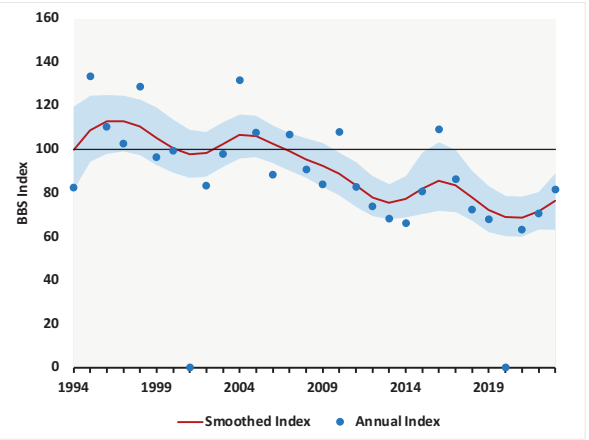
GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* CNOCELL WERDD

Uncommon breeding resident (3,350 pairs). Formerly more widespread, but declining in western counties, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	1401	1411
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

A (non-significant) 15% increase in the annual Breeding Bird Survey index compared to 2022 helped to pull the smoothed trend to its highest level since 2018, but still 34% lower than in 1995. The annual BirdTrack reporting rate has been above 6% since 2020 and the three-year mean is 32% higher than in 2013-15, which suggests several good breeding seasons and that further loss from the north and west may have been stemmed for now.

Breeding Bird Survey: Green Woodpecker in Wales, 1994-2023



Breeding season records away from southeast Wales. GOWER: bred at Clyne Woods and Margam Park, probably at four sites and recorded at 37 others; CARMARTHEN: two at Coed Gallt-y-gyrnig and Betws mountain, and singles at 12 other sites; PEMBROKE: two at Star on 5 July, and singles near Milton on 21 April and at Colby Woodland garden on 10 June; CEREDIGION: singles at six sites; RADNOR: singles at five sites; MONTGOMERY: records from 16 sites, most in the Severn and Cain valleys; MEIRIONNYDD: Bala on 25 May; Coed Crafnant on 2 June; Croesor on several dates in June; CAERNARFON: probably bred at Fachwen; possibly bred at Penmachno, Nantlle, Clwt-y-bont and Llanbedrog; two pairs at Ystumllyn; juv. near Llangybi in mid Aug. may have fledged locally; singles at six other sites, although no records after April in four of these; ANGLESEY: Rhoscolyn on 21 April; DENBIGH: bred at Erddig and near Froncysyllte, and singles at four other sites; FLINT: singles around Caerwys in April and Aug.

Single birds, unless stated, elsewhere outside the breeding season in counties where breeding is restricted or rare. CARMARTHEN: three sites, inc. four at Mynydd Llangyndeyrn on 17 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Elegug Stacks on 23 Sept.; CEREDIGION: singles at six sites; MEIRIONNYDD: Ganllwyd in Jan.; Bod Petryal on 28 Jan.; Trawscoed in Aug.-Sept.; Gwaith Powdwr on 20 Sept.; Portmeirion on 13 Dec.; CAERNARFON: singles at 20 sites, mostly on Pen Llŷn and northwest Eryri; ANGLESEY: Ty'n-y-gongl on 9 and 15 Jan.; Brynteg on 28 Feb.; Newborough Forest on 15 Nov.; DENBIGH: 10 sites, all east of Glyndyfrdwy; FLINT: Llanfynydd on 26 Aug.; Shotton on 26 Aug.; RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool in April and Oct.

Kestrel (Vaisey Bramley)

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* CUDYLL COCH

Uncommon and declining resident (1750 breeding pairs). Partial and passage migrant to some counties in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

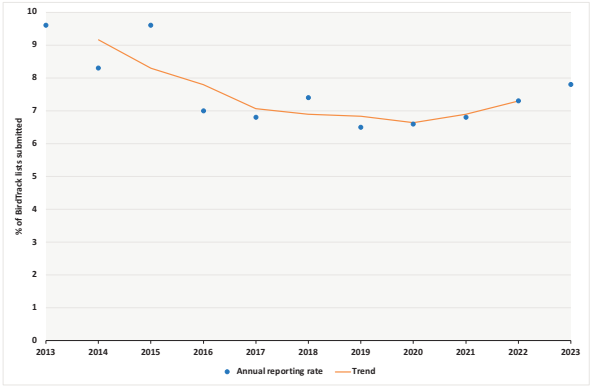
	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1942	2112
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	8%

The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen by 40% since 1995, but the species is too scarce for a trend to be generated for Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest since 2015, and the deficit has reduced to -20% since 2013-15. Ahead of a possible future national survey, birdwatchers are encouraged to record breeding activity codes.

Breeding evidence. GWENT: probably bred at Caldicot Pill and Mynydd Garnclochdy, and present at 14 other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Rhymney, Cors Crychydd Reen, Dare Valley CP and Pontprennau, probably at four sites and recorded at 29 others; GOWER: bred at Paviland and Baglan Energy Park, probably at four sites and recorded at 11 other sites; CARMARTHEN: possibly nested at RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas and records from five other sites, inc. four at Bwlch-y-ffin on 31 July; PEMBROKE: bred on Ramsey

and possibly at nine other sites; CEREDIGION: 38 chicks ringed at eight successful nests (4.75/nest) and two other nests successful; possibly bred at two other sites; BRECON: 4-5 occupied territories, with at least three fledging young; RADNOR: at least six pairs bred; MONTGOMERY: 22 chicks ringed at five successful nests (4.4/nest); probably/possibly bred at four other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: bred in Cwm Prysor and probably at two other sites; CAERNARFON: bred at Bwlchtocyn, Cwmystradllyn and Nant Gwynant, probably in Cwm Cowlyd, Great Orme and Conwy Mountain, and possibly at 24 other sites; ANGLESEY: bred at Rhoscolyn and RSPB Cors Ddyga, possibly at three other sites; DENBIGH: bred at Llechrydau and pairs at nine other sites; FLINT: bred on Cilcain Moors and probably at four other sites.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Kestrel in Wales 2013-23



2020 GWENT, corrected totals: bred at six sites and probable/possible at another 12.

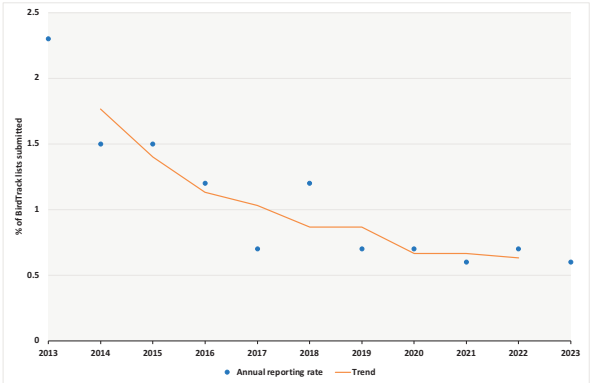
MERLIN *Falco columbarius* CUDYLL BACH

Rare breeding resident in the uplands. RBBP: 11-25 pairs in 2022. Elsewhere, an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	253	210
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

In the absence of a funded national census, volunteers undertook surveys of the principal upland blocks in Wales, except for Elenydd-Mallaen. These confirmed 16-17 breeding territories of which seven were successful fledging a min. 25 young (1.67), with a further nine possibly occupied territories. Thanks to Dave Smith for co-ordinating the project. The BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen by 64% since 2013-15, indicating that sightings outside the breeding season are becoming ever more scarce.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Merlin in Wales 2013-23



Breeding season. GOWER: one in suitable habitat in mid-June; CARMARTHEN: possibly bred at Mynydd Llanllwni; CEREDIGION: pair fledged four young in the northeast of the county; BRECON: bred at one site; RADNOR: records from three sites; MONTGOMERY: pair at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy fledged four; possibly bred at Glaslyn; MEIRIONNYDD: pair at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, outcome uncertain; pair in North Berwyn fledged five; two pairs in Rhinogydd, one fledged five, the other failed at chick stage; pair on Migneint failed; CAERNARFON: nest in northwest Eryri fledged three young; two pairs in south Carneddau, both failed;

pair in Glyderau fledged three young; pair on Nantlle Ridge failed; two pairs in suitable habitat in upper Glaslyn catchment failed; possibly bred in northern Carneddau; DENBIGH: nest in North Berwyn failed; one bird at a site in Mynydd Hiraethog in May and a fledged juvenile at another site in the area on 17 Aug.

Merlin: non-breeding totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1	3		2	1				2	1	2	3
E.GLAMORGAN	2	4	2		1	1	1			8	6	3
GOWER	3	4	1	2		1		1		5	5	4
CARMARTHEN	5	3	2						1	4	4	2
PEMBROKE	4	2	7	3	3			1	2	11	5	3
CEREDIGION	5	3	2	3				1	2	3	5	1
BRECON	1	1	1	1				1		1	3	1
RADNOR	1		1								3	5
MONTGOMERY	1	1					1	1	2		2	2
MEIRIONNYDD	2	2	2	2				1	1	2		1
CAERNARFON	3	1	4	2	1				5	8	4	4
ANGLESEY	5	4	3	8	3			1	3	3	2	1
DENBIGH	1	2	2	5						1	1	2
FLINT	1	1		1					2	2	3	

2020 GWENT, corrected totals:

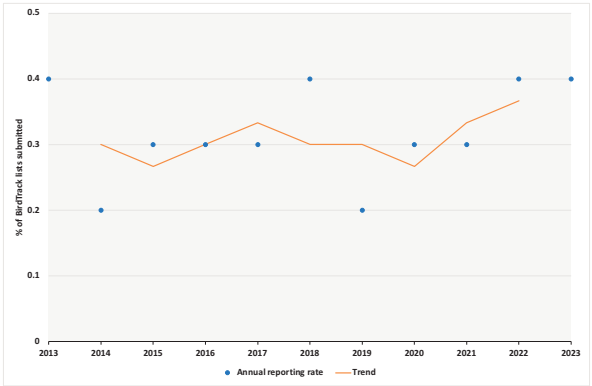
Merlin: non-breeding totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	3		1						1	5	6	2

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Rare but increasing breeder (205 pairs). RBBP: 23-52 pairs in 2022. Uncommon passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	173	180
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Hobby in Wales 2013-23



There was breeding evidence from a dozen sites, but this excludes details from its Gwent stronghold. GWENT: probably bred near Osbaston and Croesyceiliog; CARMARTHEN: 3-4 pairs in central Tywi valley, of which one was proven to breed; BRECON: at least 13 territories; RADNOR: eight territories; MONTGOMERY: bred at Trehelig and possibly at Llyn Clywedog; DENBIGH: bred in vicinity of Lleweni watermeadows, probably at Fenn's Moss and possibly in Conwy Valley; FLINT: possibly bred near Gronant.

Hobby: non-breeding totals	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT	3	5	4	2	6	3	1
E.GLAMORGAN		5	2	1	1	5	2
GOWER	1						1
CARMARTHEN		2	1	1	2	1	2
PEMBROKE	1	1	6	1		2	
CEREDIGION	2	4	4	1	3	2	
BRECON	1	5				3	
RADNOR		1					
MONTGOMERY	1	1	2	3	6	1	
MEIRIONNYDD		4		3	2	1	
CAERNARFON		2	5	3	3	3	
ANGLESEY		4	6	1	2		
DENBIGH	2	12		2	1	5	
FLINT		4	1	4	2		

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Hobby	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	19 April	The Bryn	13 Oct.	Blaenavon
E.GLAMORGAN	1 May	Cors Crychydd Reen	**31 Oct.**	**Kenfig NNR**
GOWER	26 April	Kenfig estuary	16 Oct.	Pitton
CARMARTHEN	21 May	Cilsan Bridge	10 Oct.	Pal-y-cŵrt
PEMBROKE	**2 April**	**Martin's Haven**	23 Sept.	Ramsey
CEREDIGION	26 April	Cors Caron	21 Sept.	Mynachdy'r Graig
BRECON	28 April	Tirabad	26 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	4 May	Nantmel	23 Sept.	Clyro
MONTGOMERY	22 April	Llanfechain	25 Sept.	Bacheldre
MEIRIONNYDD	12 May	Arthog	25 Sept.	Bronaber
CAERNARFON	5 May	Aberdaron	12 Sept.	Daron Valley
ANGLESEY	4 May	Cors Ddyga & Llyn Penrhyn	15 Aug.	Llyn Traffwll
DENBIGH	21 April	Fenn's Moss	10 Sept.	Gresford Flash
FLINT	6 May	near Ddol	24 Sept.	Sealand Ranges

2022 DENBIGH: Llyn Brenig on 26 April was the earliest record.

2020 GWENT, breeding: four nesting records, monitoring at three had seven chicks; probable/possible breeding at eight other sites.

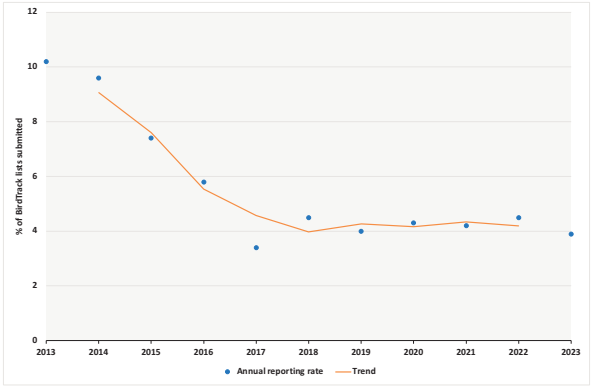
PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* HEBOG TRAMOR

Rare and declining breeder (279 territories in 2014). RBBP: 102-141 pairs in 2022. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	1255	1136
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	4%

The BirdTrack reporting rate is 54% lower than in 2013-15, reflecting declines in breeding numbers recorded in most counties. Breeding productivity, at 1.69 young/nest (with a known outcome), was the highest for several years, but in Pembrokeshire was the lowest since 2001 (when data was limited by Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions), with coastal nest sites potentially affected by two major storms in mid-April.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Peregrine in Wales 2013-23



County	*Sites visited*	*Occupied (%)*	*Confirmed*	*Probable*	*Possible*	*Chicks fledged*	*Average productivity**
GWENT	9	8 (89%)	4	0	4	6	1.5
E.GLAMORGAN AND GOWER	33	27 (82%)	19	1	13 (no young)	min. 39	2.1
CARMARTHEN	9	4 (44%)	4	1	0	7	1.8
PEMBROKE	87	30 (34%)	15	3	2	16	1.1
BRECON	13	9 (69%)	6	0	3	min. 12	2.0
RADNOR	1	1 (100%)	1	0	0	3	3.0

*based on confirmed breeding pairs. Data from South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group and Pembrokeshire Bird Group.

Records from other county bird reports. MONTGOMERY: three fledged at Llanymynech; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at Cwm Cywarch and Arenig Fawr; CAERNARFON: two pairs bred on Great Orme, one each at Trefriw and Bardsey, and probably bred at three other sites; ANGLESEY: up to nine breeding pairs; DENBIGH: nest in North Berwyn fledged three but another here failed and outcome unknown at a third AON; FLINT: bred in a coastal quarry.

2020 GWENT: bred at five sites and probably/possibly at another 12.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* GWYBEDOG Y GWERN
Extremely rare vagrant from North America, not previously recorded in Wales.

PEMBROKE: 1CY+ male on Skokholm on 20-29 Sept., caught and ringed on 21st.

Empidonax flycatcher sp. CAERNARFON: Pen Cilan, CAERNARFON, on 23-24 Sept., but specific identification could not be confirmed in stormy conditions.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus* FIREO LLYGATGOCH
Very rare visitor from North America. BBRC: nine previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pool on 21 Sept., the first county record.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* EURYN
Scarce migrant from southern Europe, usually as a spring overshoot. WBRC: 225 previous records.

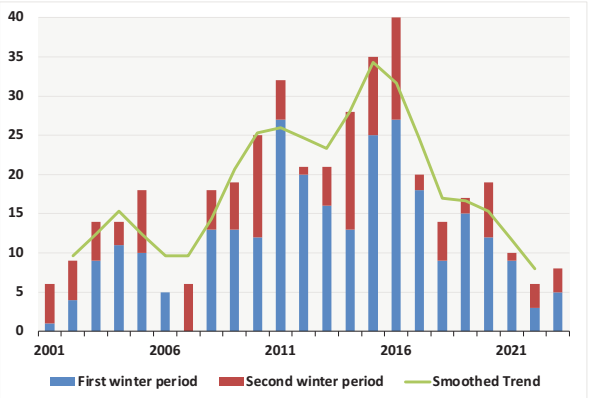
PEMBROKE: 1CY/female on Skokholm on 3 May; singing 2CY male at St Ann's Head, on 31 May; CAERNARFON: 2CY/female on Bardsey on 31 May.

2002 ANGLESEY: 1CY male singing at Coed Pen-y-parc, Beaumaris, on 19 May.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* CIGYDD MAWR
Uncommon but annual winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	109	13
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Great Grey Shrike: all records, 2001-23



Pritchard *et al.* (2021) noted that a westward shift in the wintering population had occurred during the first decades of the 21st century. However, numbers in Wales have fallen sharply to less than a quarter of the average during 2014-16, a similar scale of decline to the rest of Britain (White and Kehoe 2024). It suggests either that the Scandinavian breeding population is in trouble or a greater number are opting to stay on that side of the North Sea.

First winter period/spring passage. GWENT: Deri, near Abergavenny, on 25 March.

Second winter period. CARMARTHEN: above Rhydcymerau, Brechfa Forest, in early March; Cynnant on 1 and 4 Dec.; RADNOR: Disgwylfa Hill on 22 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: RSPB Lake Vyrnwy from 16 Nov. into 2024; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 22 Oct.; DENBIGH: Pentre-llyn-cymmer on 21-22 Nov. and at two other sites in Clocaenog on 26 and 29 Dec.

2020 GWENT: Cold Harbour Pill on 15-16 Oct.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* CIGYDD CEFNGOCH
Scarce passage migrant from mainland Europe. Former breeder, last in 2006. WBRC: 170 records since 1967.

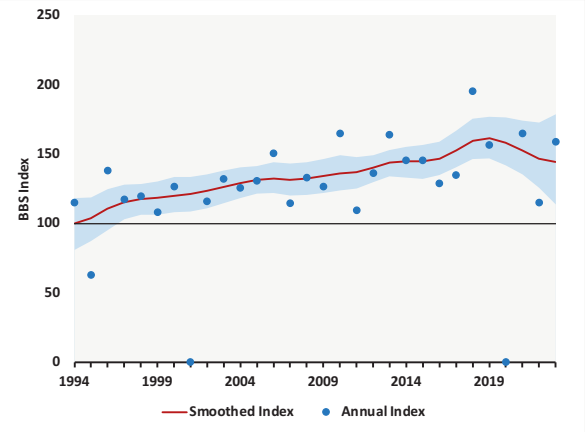
PEMBROKE: male ringed on Skokholm on 28 May; ANGLESEY: singing male at Rhoscolyn on 2 June; female at RSPB South Stack on 5-6 June.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* SGRECH Y COED

Fairly common and widespread resident (35,500 territories), though scarce in west Llŷn and much of Anglesey. Autumn/winter influxes from the east occur irregularly. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2682	2631
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	11%

Breeding Bird Survey: Jay in Wales, 1994-2023



Although there appears to be a reversal in the long-term growth in the Jay population, the recent trend is strongly influenced by the low numbers recorded by Breeding Bird Survey participants in 2022. The index remains 41% above its 1995 level. The BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate shows no strong trend, although the annual June peak was at its lowest value since 2000. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the lowest yet.

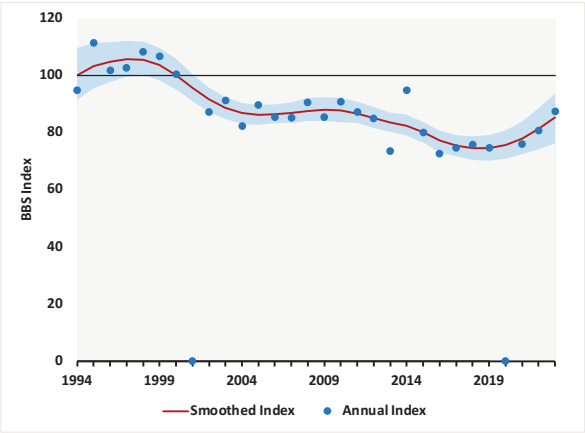
Counts >10. E.GLAMORGAN: 13 at Kenfig NNR on 22 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 11 at Llanybydder on 29 June; 18 at Idole on 5 Nov.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* PIODEN

Fairly common and widespread resident (79,500 territories). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	10826	11316
% of BirdTrack lists	52%	52%

Breeding Bird Survey: Magpie in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey annual index was its highest since 2014, bringing the long-term deficit down to -21% and below the threshold for Amber-listing of conservation concern. No trend is evident in the reporting rate or numbers in the BTO Garden BirdWatch nor the BirdTrack reporting rate. On Bardsey, CAERNARFON, 11 pairs raised 20 young, (*cf.* 14 pairs and 24 young in 2022).

Counts ≥20. GWENT: 23 at Llanwenarth and 20 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 20 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 21 at Hamadryad Park-Cardiff on 15 Jan.; 52 roosted near Kenfig crossroads and 21 at Cathays cemetery on 29 Jan.; 35 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 9 Feb. and 25 here on 24 Oct.; 20 at Hendre Lake on 7 and 27 Feb.; 35 at Kenfig NNR on 18 March and 26 here on 22 Nov.; 21 in Roath on 11 June; 21 at Cardiff Bay Wetlands NR on 8 Oct.; 111 at Nant-y-Helyg, Bute Town, on 29 Oct.; GOWER: 23 roosted at

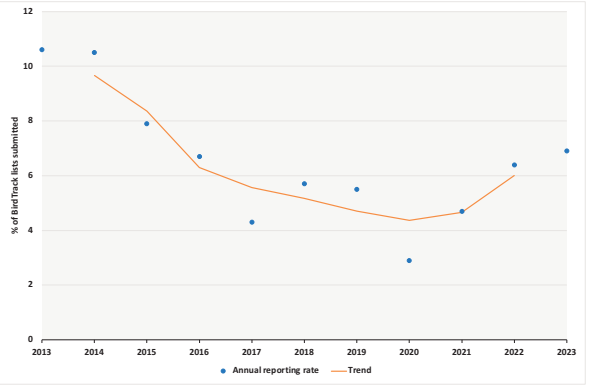
Port Talbot docks on 23 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 30 at Cosheston Pill on 14 Oct. and 21 here on 5 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 roosted in Dolgellau on 26 Jan.; 20 near Garreg on 8 July; 20 at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 30 July; CAERNARFON: 21 at The Spinnies on 2 Jan.; 27 at Morfa Bychan GC on 28 Jan.; 20 near Wig Farm-Aber on 29 Jan.; 20 on the northern tip of the Great Orme on 1 March, suggesting movement; max. 40 on Bardsey on 3 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Cefni marshes on 6 Jan.; min. 27 moving over RSPB South Stack on 1 April (many turned back at coast); 24 at Silver Bay on 22 Oct.; FLINT: 36 at Connah's Quay NR on 30 Jan. and 20 here on 17 Nov.; 31 at Buckley Heritage Trail on 21 Feb.; 23 south of Rhyl on 22 Oct.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* BRAN GOESGOCH

Uncommon resident, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard (252-278 pairs in 2014). RBBP: 262-289 pairs in 2022. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1708	1865
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	7%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Chough in Wales 2013-23



Breeding season. In Pembrokeshire, the numbers of territories, nests and young fledged were the highest since comprehensive monitoring began in 1992, and included a successful pair at Tenby for the first time in more than a century. Productivity here was close to the long-term average. In North and Mid Wales, the number of occupied territories was on a par with 2022, consistent with high post-fledging survival of 2019 and 2020 cohorts of juveniles. Similar to Pembrokeshire, these regions had high nest productivity in 2023, benefiting from a prolonged warm and dry spring and a cool damp summer that provided good conditions for fledglings to forage. Site totals illustrate the species' varied fortunes: nine fledged from seven pairs (1.29) on Bardsey, CAERNARFON, the lowest productivity for 30 years, whereas 27 fledged from 12 pairs (3.0) at RSPB South Stack, ANGLESEY, the highest total since 2007.

Chough	*Occupied territories*	*Nests or confirmed/probable pairs**	*Successful nests or broods ringed*	*Min. no of young fledged or ringed*	*Young fledged or ringed/successful nest*
E.GLAMORGAN	?	1	1	?	
GOWER	5	4	?	?	
CARMARTHEN	2	1	1	1+	min. 1.0
PEMBROKE	95	82	68	172	2.5
CEREDIGION	33	21	13	43	3.3
MEIRIONNYDD	12	9	3	10	3.3
CAERNARFON	111	104	31	93	3.0
ANGLESEY	39	36	15	40	2.7
DENBIGH	2	2	1	5	5.0

* Values are nests in Eastern Glamorgan to Pembrokeshire; confirmed and probable breeding pairs in Ceredigion to Denbighshire.

Data in table from county recorders, Hodges and Haycock (2023), Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project and Bardsey Bird Observatory.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate was its highest (6.9% of lists submitted) since 2015, but as the species is restricted in range, this may not be a very meaningful metric. A co-ordinated survey in PEMBROKE on 22-23 April recorded 89-101 birds, above the long-term average and a roost survey in late Aug./early Sept. found 216 birds, the highest since co-ordinated counts started in 2014.

Notable counts during Jan. to April. GOWER: 22 on Rhossili Down on 22 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 32 at Strumble Head on 6 Feb.; 30 at Cemaes Head on 2 April; CEREDIGION: 10 at Mwnt and at Ynyslas on 19 Feb.; 13 at Penbryn on 21 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 38 at a roost on 4 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 36 at Pen Cilan on 29 Jan.; 21 at Porth Ceiriad on 2 Feb.; 23 on Great Orme on 1 March; 19 on Little Orme on 11 March; ANGLESEY: 31 roosted at RSPB South Stack on 7 Jan.

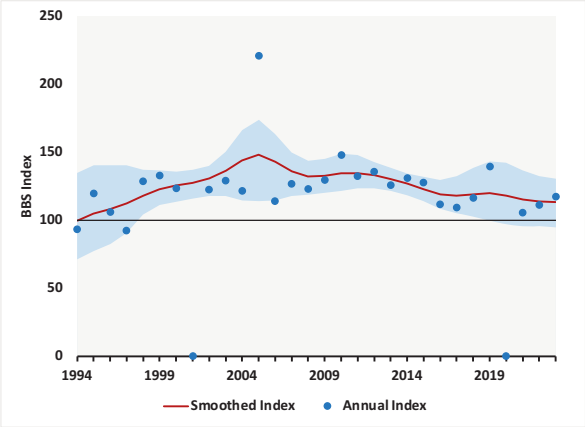
Notable counts during July to Dec. E.GLAMORGAN: 11 at Dunraven Bay on 10 Oct.; GOWER: 20 at Oxwich Pt on 13 July; 47 at Rhossili on 28 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 53 at Strumble Head on 10 July; 40 at Trehill on 12 July; 54 on Ramsey in late Aug.; 45 at Martin's Haven on 8 Sept. and 65 here on 29 Oct.; 42 on Skomer on 29 Sept.; 55 at West Hook on 30 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 40 at Morfa Bychan on 27 Aug.; 25 at Mwnt on 29 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 42 at Llyn Cregennan on 28 Aug.; 62 at a roost on 3 Nov. included most colour-ringed 1CY from Ceredigion; CAERNARFON: up to 60 in north Carneddau on 13 July and up to 65 here on 26 Aug.; 64 on Cadair Idris on 6 Sept.; up to 50 at Mynydd Mawr on 1 Oct.; up to 50 at a site on north Llŷn on 8 Oct.; max. 62 on Bardsey on 22 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 38 at RSPB South Stack on 23 Sept.; six on Puffin Island on 19 Dec.; 52 south of Llyn Traffwll on 23 Dec.; DENBIGH: max. three over RSPB Conwy during autumn; Llanddulas on 1 Dec.

JACKDAW *Coloeus monedula* JAC-Y-DO

Fairly common and widespread resident (155,000 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	10026	10897
% of BirdTrack lists	48%	50%

Breeding Bird Survey: Jackdaw in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has decreased for 18 years consecutively, yet remains 8% above the 1995 baseline. The BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate has declined slightly over a similar period, and the annual peak in May was only lower in 2021. The threshold for inclusion in the report has been increased from ≥300 to ≥500.

GOWER: 1400 over Briton Ferry and *c*.700 over Neath in each winter period; E.GLAMORGAN: 500 at Parc Aberdare on 25 Jan.; 500 over Rhaslas Pond on 10 March; 646 at Caerphilly Castle on 27 Nov.; GOWER/CARMARTHEN: 600 on Loughor est. on 8 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 1000 over Haverfordwest on 7 Jan.; 500 at Dale airfield on 29 Oct.; 500 at Kilpaison Burrows on 10 May; 520 on Skomer in Oct.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 800 at Teifi Marshes on 23 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 500 at Morfa Benar on 1 Oct.; CAERNARFON: up to 600 roosted in Bangor in late Sept.

and early Oct.; ANGLESEY: *c*.500 at Traeth Dulas on 24 Feb.

2020 GWENT, additional counts ≥300 birds: *c*.300 regularly roosted at Caerleon and *c*.1000 at Great Traston Meadows, Nash, in both winter periods; >300 between Hafod Farm and Lonely Shepherd on 24 Feb.; 300 at Blaenavon on 24 March; 500 at Brynmawr on 6 March; 300 at Bedwas on 4 Oct.; >500 at Peterstone on 22 Oct.

***C. m. monedula* (Nordic Jackdaw / Jac-y-do Llychlyn)**

The WBRC recorded 27 individuals showing features of this form during 2010-22 but could not be certain whether these were genuine Scandinavian birds or their plumage characteristics were within the normal variation of British Jackdaws.

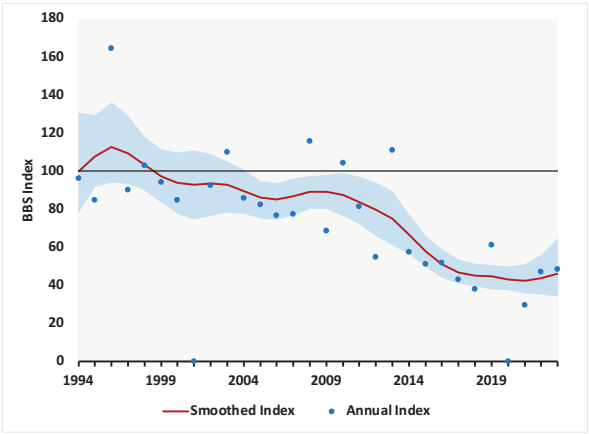
ANGLESEY: two at Gorad flood, Valley, on 1-8 Nov.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* YDFRAN

Fairly common resident, breeding mainly below 300m. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2589	2645
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%

Breeding Bird Survey: Rook in Wales, 1994-2023



A WOS-organised Wales Rook Survey in 2022-23 estimated the Welsh population to be 44,127 (41,144-46,940) AON, with the highest county total and density in Pembrokeshire (19% of the national total). Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire were the only other recording areas to hold more than 10% of the total (Hereward *et al*. 2024). The average rookery size was 22 nests, around 12% below previous surveys in 1975 and 1996. Rookeries in excess of 50 nests were far less frequent than formerly (Brenchley 2024).

Hereward *et al.* (2024) cautioned against comparing the results with the 1996 GB survey of rookeries because of the small sample size in Wales in the earlier estimate, and emphasised that the Breeding Bird Survey remains the best indicator of population change. The annual BBS index for Wales increased slightly, reducing the deficit to 59% since 1995. The year-round BirdTrack reporting rate has increased 30% since 2013-15 while the annual peak in the reporting rate in the BTO Garden BirdWatch was its highest since 2017, yet still far lower than historically.

Apparently Occupied Nests reported in available bird reports, BirdTrack or eBird. GWENT: nine sites, the largest of *c*.30 AON near Dingestow; E.GLAMORGAN: 147 AON at 11 sites, the largest of 45 at Pitcot Pool; also bred at five other sites; GOWER: full survey recorded 472 AON at 36 sites, the largest of 44 at Cwm Ivy and Reynoldston (*cf.* 548 at the same sites in 2022); CARMARTHEN: 660 AON at 20 sites, largest of 69 at Laugharne; PEMBROKE: 18 sites, the largest of 15 at Carew Cheriton; estimate from a county-wide survey in 2022-23 was revised to 6679 AON at 213 sites; CEREDIGION: 73 AON at Synod Inn; BRECON: 313 AON

at 13 sites, the largest of 132 at Gwernyfed School; RADNOR: rookery at Rhayader; MONTGOMERY: four sites, the largest of 12 near Four Crosses; MEIRIONNYDD: 439 AON at 15 sites, the largest of 133 at Druid; CAERNARFON: 281 AON at eight sites, the largest of 113 at Penrhos, near Pwllheli; ANGLESEY: 27 AON at two sites, the largest of 17 in Moelfre; DENBIGH: 173 AON at nine sites, the largest of 53 in Llansannan; also bred at seven other sites; FLINT: five sites, the largest of 37 AON at Pt of Ayr.

Counts ≥100 away from rookeries. GWENT: 120 fed on stubble near Osbaston on 13 Sept.; GOWER: 182 at Whiteford on 27 Jan. and 150 here on 17 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: >100 at Laugharne on 15 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Newport on 26 Jan. and 200 here on 6 Aug.; 100 at Dale airfield on 23 Feb. and 16 Aug.; 110 at Lydstep on 6 July; 100 at Gann pools on 12 July; 221 at Trefin on 18 Sept.; 200 at Broad Haven on 26 Sept.; 235 at St Ann's Head on 24 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 100 at Gwbert on 21 Jan.; 122 at Cardigan on 30 March and 200 here on 23 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 250 at Morfa Benar on 1 Oct.; ANGLESEY: up to 200 at Llanddyfnan in Jan./Feb.; DENBIGH: 133 at RSPB Conwy on 25 Aug.; FLINT: 137 by Clwyd est. on 27 Aug.

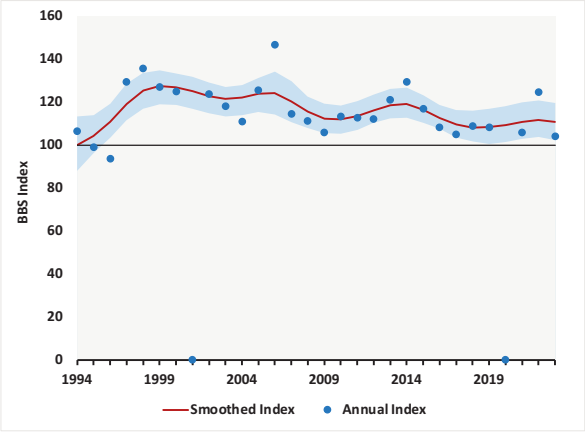
2020 GWENT: 52 AON at three sites (largest c.25 at Llanbadoc) and uncounted rookeries at two others.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* BRAN DYDDYN

Abundant and widespread resident (160,000 territories). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	14266	15082
% of BirdTrack lists	68%	69%

Breeding Bird Survey: Carrion Crow in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey annual index returned to a typical value after an increase in 2022. The smoothed index is just 7% higher than the 1995 baseline. Carrion Crow retained its place as the species most frequently recorded on BirdTrack lists, with no strong trend in the last decade. The only sites with comparable breeding information were Skomer, PEMBROKE, where 23 nesting pairs was the highest since 1968, and Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where eight pairs nested, one fewer than in 2022, and a minimum of 13 young fledged (*cf.* 11 in 2022).

Counts ≥100. GWENT: 129 at Mathern on 19 June and >500 mixed Carrion Crow/Jackdaw here on 11 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Llangynwyd on 5 June; 200 by R.Ely near Clawdd-côch on 9 July; >200 at Tondu on 26 July; 250 at Nash Pt on 11 Aug.; 100 at Peterston Moors on 25 Aug.; 100 at Aberthaw on 5 Nov.; 120 at Llanishen Res. on 11 Dec.; 200 at Pontcanna fields on 29 Dec.; GOWER: 124 at Weobley on 16 Feb.; 119 at Wernffrwd on 3 July; 110 at Dalton's Pt on 21 Sept.; GOWER/CARMARTHEN: 101 on Morfa Bacas on 18 June; 138 on Loughor est. on 5 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Pendine Sands on 28 Jan.; 133 at Morfa Bacas on 8 July; 143 at Penclacwydd on 23 July; 168 at Kidwelly Quay on 29 July; PEMBROKE: 200 on Nevern est. on 10 Aug.; 300 at St Davids on 9 Aug.; 100 on Gann est. on 4 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 350 on Dyfi est. in autumn; CAERNARFON: 103 at Llanengan on 21 June; FLINT: 100 near Llanfynydd on 9 Aug.

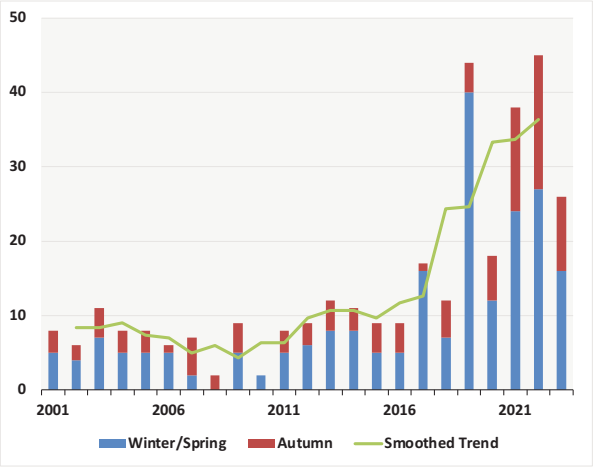
2020 GWENT, additional records: 100 at Celtic Manor on 29 March; 100 at Llanbadoc on 2 Sept.; 120 at St Pierre Pill on 18 Oct.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* BRAN LWYD

Uncommon and irregular wanderer to Wales, presumed from Ireland, and mainly to west coast in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	354	238
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Hooded Crow: max. in each county, 2001-23



Apparently fewer records than in the previous couple of years, although it is impossible to be confident how many individuals are involved in records on Anglesey or Bardsey. Records in two landlocked counties were unusual, and notable were two that flew high out to sea from RSPB South Stack, ANGLESEY, despite a strong northerly wind on 25 May, perhaps heading for Ireland. A few days earlier, one had attempted the same journey but turned back.

Single birds unless stated. PEMBROKE: St Davids airfield on 2 Jan.; Mesur-y-dorth on 12-27 Jan. and at nearby Croesgoch from 1 July to 3 Sept.; Skomer on 7 and 23 April; Pwllderi on 23-24 April; Broadway on 11 May; Gann est. from 29 Oct. to 24 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Llanilar on 21-29 May; BRECON: Craig Llyn, Llanwrthwl, on 7-8 Sept. and two here on 5 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: Llanfyllin on 12 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Nefyn on 15 April; Great Orme from 19 April to 2 May; Aberdaron on 5 May and 27 Oct.; Bardsey on 18 April, on six dates in May, 11 June and 15 Oct.; Uwchmynydd on 10 May and two here on 12 June; two at Black Rock Sands on 17 June; Bangor on 11 July; Llandudno West Shore on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Traeth Dulas on 1 Jan. and 24 Feb.; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 28 Jan.; Newborough Forest in Jan.-March, June and Oct.; 1-2 around north of Holy Island throughout the year; Cemlyn and Carmel Head in April/May, two here on 15 June, and singles on 17 Aug. and 26 Oct.; Alaw est. on 12 May and 12 Dec.; Valley on 13 May; Rhosneigr on 23 May; Porth Swtan on 1 June and 26 July; Beaumaris on 9 Aug.; Rhoscolyn on 28 Aug.; Inland Sea on 10 Oct.; Aberffraw on 11 and 14 Nov.; DENBIGH/FLINT: Clwyd est. from 3 May to 14 Sept. and two here on 17 May and 14 June.

2020 GWENT: Penpergwm throughout the year; three hybrid young in June appeared to leave the nest before fledging and at least two subsequently died. This was the first breeding record in the county involving the species.

Hooded X Carrion Crow

GOWER: Wernffrwd on 28 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 11 April; ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack in Feb., March and May; Porth Dafarch on 16 Oct.; Newborough Forest on 16 Nov. and two at nearby Ynys Llanddwyn on 23rd.

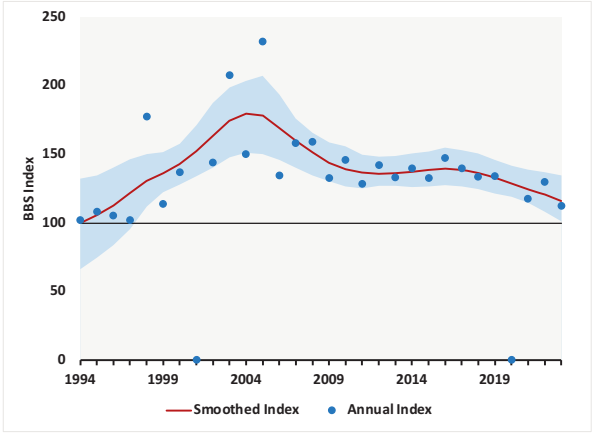
RAVEN *Corvus corax* CIGFRAN

Widespread resident (2150 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4919	5173
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	22%

Having continued its long-term recovery to the early years of the century, the annual Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen to its lowest level since 1996. The BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen 13% since 2013-15, but has been more stable in recent years.

Breeding Bird Survey: Raven in Wales, 1994-2023



Raven: roost maxima		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	Abernant	37	58	119	34	70	200	156	47	35	21	41	59

Counts ≥20. GWENT: 25 at Skenfrith on 22 March; 21 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 24 April; GOWER: 38 over Foel Fynyddau on 19 March; CEREDIGION: 30 on Lledrod Common on 22 March; BRECON: 60 at Talgarth on 5 Feb.; 60 on Mynydd Epynt on 27 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 40 at Llandinam GP on 4 Feb.; 25 in Cwmffrwd on 27 Oct.; 20 at Esgairfedw on 5 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 21 on Foel Fras on 29 April; 24 on Bardsey on 28 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Cemlyn on 5 March; 22 at Newborough on 28 Sept.; FLINT: 25 on Moel Famau on 14 Nov.; 30 at Sealand Ranges on 22 Nov.

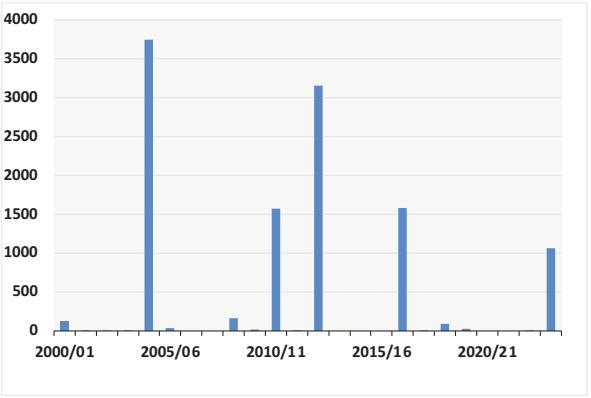
Waxwings (Mike Nesbitt)

WAXWING Bombycilla garrulus CYNFFON SIDAN

Uncommon winter visitor, though annual numbers vary greatly.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4	231
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Waxwing: all records, 2000/01-2023/24 (provisional)



The records listed below are those that occurred in 2023, none of which were in the first part of the year. The chart, however, attempts to account for records in the remainder of winter 2023/24, which will be updated as necessary in next year's Report. It was the best winter in seven years, although only the northeastern quarter of the country saw Waxwings in any number.

GWENT: Brynglas on 7 Nov.; Blackwood on 8 Dec.; at least four at St Julians on 22 Dec.; three at Rogerstone on 25 Dec., increasing to 14 by 31st; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Ystrad Mynach on 14 Dec.; GOWER: four in a Southgate garden on 28 Nov., one caught and ringed; CARMARTHEN: Llanybydder on 30 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 1 Dec.; RADNOR: max. 12 at Presteigne on 25-29 Nov. and one here on 25 Dec.; one at Combe on 27 Nov.; one at Crossgates on 1-2 Dec.; eight at New Radnor in Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 30 at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 15 Nov.; Llanfyllin on 1 Dec.; 20 in Guilsfield on 2-6 Dec.; three in Welshpool on 3-4 Dec.; seven in Newtown on 4 Dec., increasing to 55 by 31st; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 in Tywyn on 19 Dec.; CAERNARFON: three in Bethesda on 26 Nov., eight here on 30th and four on 2 Dec.; ANGLESEY: two at Porth Eilian on 29 Oct.; DENBIGH: up to 55 in Llysfaen from 27 Nov. to 28 Dec. (max. on 3rd); up to 10 in Colwyn Bay West End from 28 Nov. to 1 Dec. (max. on 30th); south of Ruabon on 2 Dec.; 27 at Prion-Denbigh on 4 Dec.; up to 65 around Rhuthun on 10-28 Dec (max. on 28th); 14 by Clwyd est. on 18 Dec.; 14 in OId Colwyn on 23 Dec.; up to 60 at Kinmel Bay on 29-31 Dec. (max. on 29th); RSPB Conwy on 30 Dec.; 11 between Llanddulas and Pensarn on 31 Dec.; FLINT: 17 at Cilcain on 26 Nov. and one here on 27th; two at Hawarden Ind. Estate on 26 Nov.; three at Talacre Warren on 1 Dec.; 10 in Hope on 2 Dec.; 12 in Holywell on 12 Dec.; up to 40 at Rhuddlan on 16-29 Dec. (max. on 28th); four at Rhyl Sainsbury's on 19 Dec.; up to 17 in Mold on 22-29 Dec. (max on 22-24th); eight at Connah's Quay NR on 26 Dec.; two at Nercwys Forest on 27 Dec.; four at Saltney on 30-31 Dec.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* TITW PENDDU

Fairly common and widespread resident (75,000 territories), most numerous in conifer woodlands. Rare passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

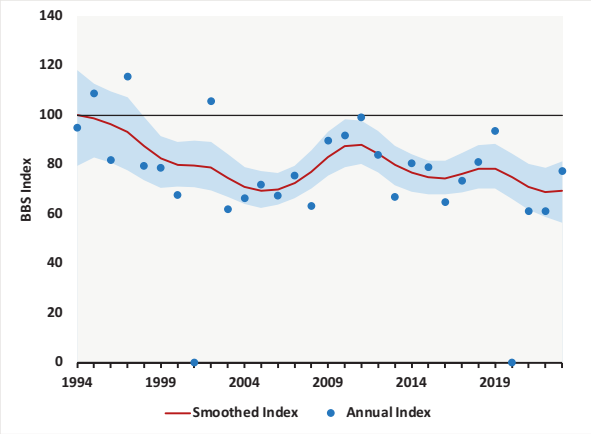
	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	3000	3572
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

The Breeding Bird Survey index increased by a significant 26% in just one year, helping the smoothed trend to recover from a record low to a value that was still 30% below the 1995 baseline. The increase was reflected in the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate, for which the annual peak, in November, was >20% above the previous year. The BirdTrack reporting rate has changed little since 2013.

Counts ≥10 outside breeding season. GWENT: 10 at Carno Res. on 20 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Cefnpennar Uchaf on 2 Jan.; 19 in Llwyn-on Forest on 27 Aug.; 15 at Bryn Du on 28 Aug.; 19 at Craig y Llyn on 3 Sept.; 12 in Darwonno Forest on 17 Sept.; 10 at Rudry Woods on 16 Dec.; GOWER: 12 at Llyn Fach on

12 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 17 in Brechfa Forest on 7 July and 4 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 10 at Minwear Wood on 17 Jan.; BRECON: 12 in Brycheiniog Forest on 25 Jan. and 11 here on 15 Nov.; RADNOR: 20 at Gwastedyn Wood in Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 10 at Trelystan on 10 March; 10 in Breidden Forest on 26 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 40 at Corris on 1 Jan.; 27 at Tan-y-coed on 22 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 15 at The Spinnies on 29 Dec.; DENBIGH: 10 at Craig Bron Banog on 4 March; FLINT: 11 at Moel Famau on 26 Nov.; 16 at Nercwys Forest on 31 Dec.

Breeding Bird Survey: Coal Tit in Wales, 1994-2023



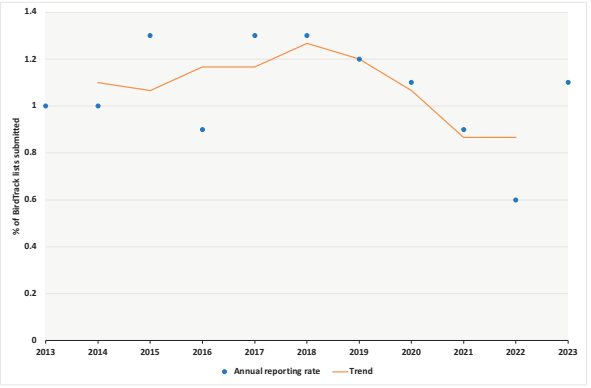
2020 GWENT, additional records: 12 at Goldcliff Pt on 29 Sept.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* TITW'R WERN

Uncommon and localised resident (4850 territories), probably declining throughout Wales and absent from large parts of the north and west. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	200	284
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Marsh Tit in Wales 2013-23



The proportion of BirdTrack lists including Marsh Tit was higher than in 2022, but the average is 21% lower than in 2013-15.

Breeding season (mid-April to June). GWENT: bred near Cwmyoy; singles at six other locations; E.GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at Cogan Wood; GOWER: 2-3 pairs at Clyne Woods; 2 pairs at Gelli-hir Wood; CARMARTHEN: bred at Cynghordy, Glanaman, possibly at Trimsaran, Stradey Woods-Llanelli and RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas, and present at Lliedi Res. and Dinefwr; PEMBROKE: pairs at Dyffryn Fernant garden and Puncheston, and singles at eight other sites, inc. seven at Minwear Wood on 17 Jan.; CEREDIGION: Cors Caron and Pont-rhyd-y-groes; BRECON: bred at Trericket and probably at four other sites; RADNOR: present in Elan Valley; MONTGOMERY: probably bred at Moel y Garth; present at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, but not surveyed; MEIRIONNYDD: Llyn Tegid on 22 May; CAERNARFON: Coedty Res. on 15 May; DENBIGH: two at Froncysyllte on 19 March and singles here during June to Oct.; Coed Mawr-Bryn Rhyd yr Arian on 1 April; two at Old Sontley and present at Eglwyseg Mountain on 9 April; Loggerheads CP on 21 June; FLINT: two below Penycloddiau on 17 April; Gwysaney on 30 April; Mynydd Isa on 2 April; Tan-y-wal west of Sychydyn on 30 April.

Outside breeding season elsewhere, all single birds unless stated. GWENT: 1-2 at 10 sites; E.GLAMORGAN: Wildmill, Bridgend, on 9 Feb.; Coedely on 17 Nov.; GOWER: four at Killay Marsh in Feb. and singles at six other sites; CARMARTHEN: two at Talley Lakes on 7 Jan. and singles at five other sites; PEMBROKE: 1-2 at 10 sites; CEREDIGION: two pairs at Coed-y-foel, Llandysul, on 13 Feb.; two at Henllan on 15 Nov.; singles at three other sites; BRECON: records from 37 other sites inc. three at Talybont Res. in Dec. and two at four sites; RADNOR: 1-2 at several sites around Llandrindod Wells in each winter period and at Bailey Einon NR on 20 March; MONTGOMERY: five sites; DENBIGH: Fenn's Moss on 6 Jan. and at nearby Maelor Forest on 9th; Acrefair on 3 March; FLINT: Pantymwyn in Jan., March and Dec.; St Asaph on 1 July; Buckley on 23 July.

2020 GWENT, correction: breeding season records from 12 sites.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* TITW'R HELYG

Uncommon, localised and declining resident (estimated 1195 pairs in 2019-20), mostly in west and central Wales. RBBP: 124 pairs in 2020. Wales Red listed.

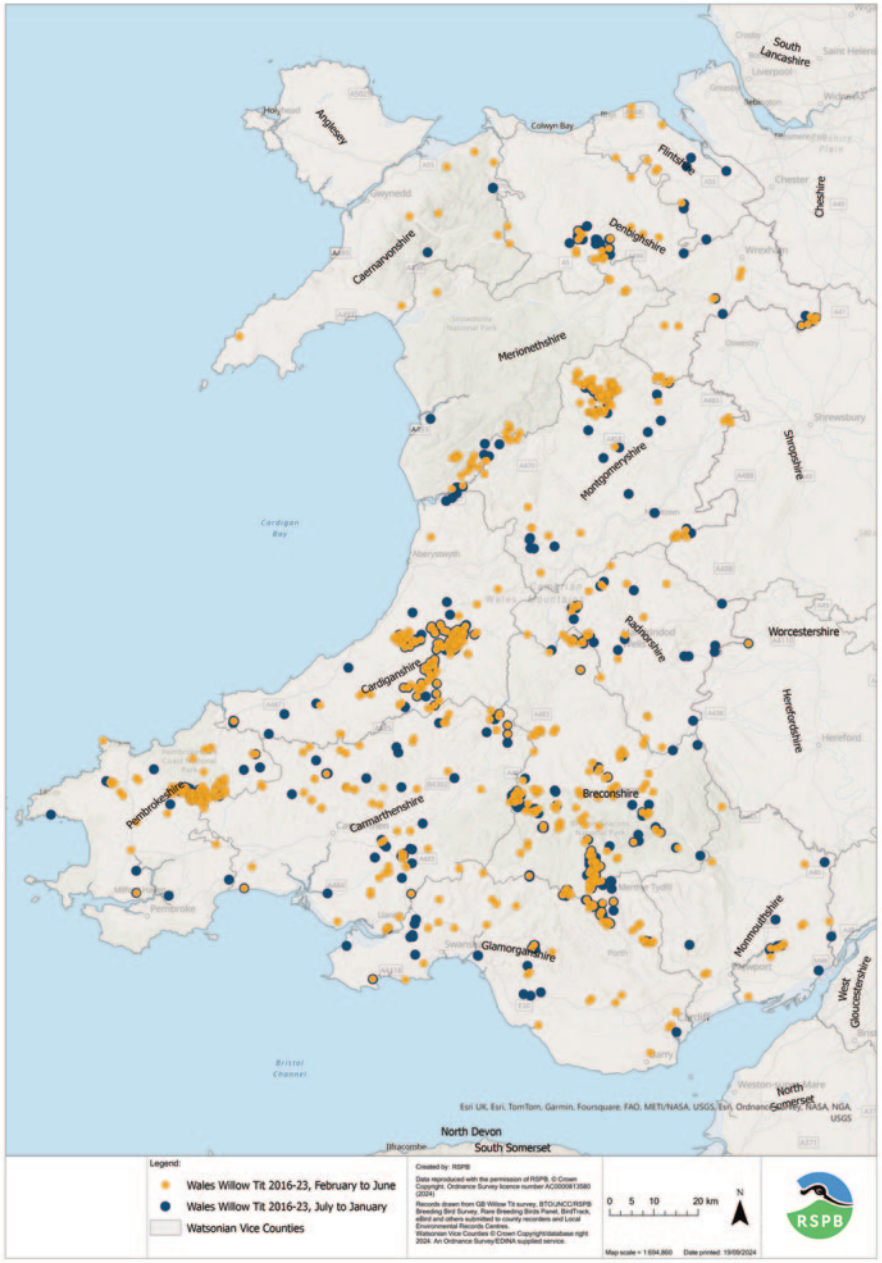
	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	101	110
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been stable for the last three years, but this belies the small number of sites that are now targeted for visits by birdwatchers in the hope of catching up with this scarce bird.

Breeding season (March-June), singles unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: at least 1-2 pairs probably bred in Garwnant; one at Miskin; CARMARTHEN: bred successfully at Penclacwydd and Halfway; PEMBROKE: three at Ty-rhŷg, and singles at Tŷ Canol NNR and Old Mill NR, Haverfordwest; CEREDIGION: pair at Commins Coch, at least two pairs at Cors Caron and a single at Cross Inn; BRECON: three territories at Usk Res. and Glasfynydd Forest, one each at Mynydd Wysg and Mynydd Illtyd, and possibly bred at three other sites; RADNOR: recorded at 14 sites during the year; MONTGOMERY: present at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy and Dyfnant Forest; MEIRIONNYDD: survey of woods in Dyfi catchment in April (outside usual time window for species-specific surveys) found seven birds east of Pantperthog and six west of Aberangell (Porter 2023).

Outside the breeding season elsewhere, singles unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Cwmbach in Jan. to March and at Gwrhydd Farm wood, Abernant, on 21 Feb.; Wentwood on 17 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 1-2 at Llyn Llech Owain in Jan.-March and one here in Oct.-Nov.; Cynghordy on 23 Jan. and 17-27 Nov.; Dinefwr on 29 Jan.; Brechfa Forest on 17 July, 2 Sept. and two here on 23rd; PEMBROKE: two at Teifi Marshes on 20 Jan.; four in Pengelli Forest on 21 Jan.; two at Pantmaenog on 7 Feb and one here on 25 Oct.; two in Coed Glynaeron on 1 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Llanfair Clydogau on 30 Jan. and 19 Feb.; Clywedog plantation in Jan., Feb. and Sept.; four at Coed y Foel in Feb.; RSPB Ynys-hir in Sept.-Dec.; BRECON: recorded at four other sites; MONTGOMERY: Gregynog on 24 Aug.; two at Pwll Penarth on 10 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: Corris on 22 Aug. and 10 Dec.; Bod Petryal on 28 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Coed Dolgarrog on 15 Jan.; DENBIGH: two locations within Clocaenog Forest in Feb. and March; up to five at Llyn Brenig Visitor Centre from 11 Nov. to year-end.

See map on p.172.



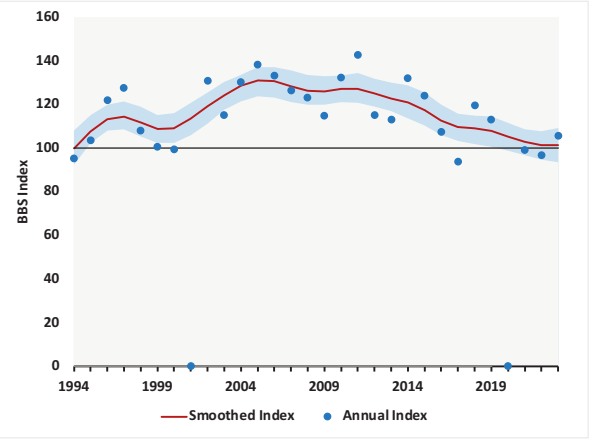
Willow Tit records 2016-23, breeding season records in yellow, others in blue. Map produced by the RSPB. Data from BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey, Rare Breeding Birds Panel, BirdTrack, eBird and the 2019-21 breeding survey organised by the RSPB.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* TITW TOMOS LAS

Abundant resident (415,000 territories), most numerous in deciduous woodland but more widespread in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	10357	11445
% of BirdTrack lists	49%	49%

Breeding Bird Survey: Blue Tit in Wales, 1994-2023



A Breeding Bird Survey index of 9% above the level of the previous year, reflecting the more productive breeding season reported in 2022, pulled the long-term trend back to its 1995 baseline. However, the peak June reporting rate in the BTO Garden BirdWatch was the lowest since the survey started in 1995, birds appearing in only 77% of Welsh gardens (*cf*. 86% in the previous five years and 88% in 2011-15). The reporting rate in November was 94%, the highest in winter since November 2018. The BirdTrack reporting rate remained below 50% of submitted lists for the second consecutive year.

At the sites below with nestbox ringing projects, it was a less productive year than 2022, although those in North Wales performed better than those in the south. From 289 pairs in seven areas, the mean productivity was 4.94 chicks per pair (*cf*. 5.57 at the same sites in 2022).

Blue Tit: breeding productivity		*Nests*	*Young fledged*	*Young/nest*	*2022 young/nest*
GOWER	Cwm Clydach	42	217	5.2	5.7
CARMARTHEN	RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas	83	307	3.70	6.87
BRECON	Coed Nant Brân	13	67	5.15	4.64
CAERNARFON	Conwy Valley	32	135	4.22	5.04
DENBIGH	Conwy Valley	18	90	5.00	
	Glyn Arthur	19	132	6.95	6.27
	Prion	39	229	5.87	4.33
	Glyn Ceiriog	43	251	5.84	3.55

Monitoring at other sites. DENBIGH: 33 fledged from five nestboxes at Coed Cilygroeslwyd.

Notable counts. BRECON: 32 in a Lower Llangynidr garden on 29 Nov.; RADNOR: 33 on feeders in a Dutlas garden on 31 July.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* TITW MAWR

Abundant and widespread throughout Wales up to c.500m above sea level except on small islands (255,000 territories). Wales Green listed.

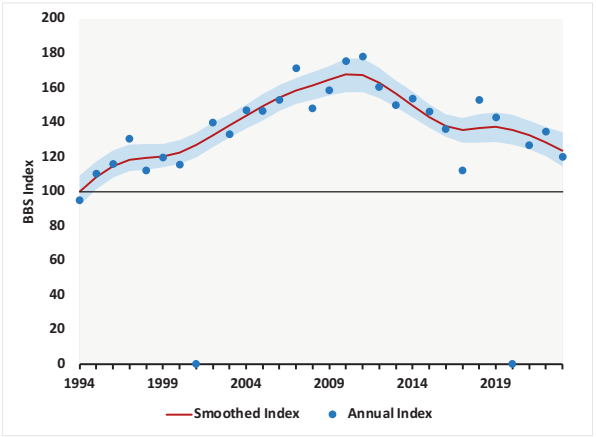
	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	8263	9290
% of BirdTrack lists	40%	40%

The annual Breeding Bird Survey index fell by a further 11% on its 2022 value. Although the smoothed index has fallen almost annually since 2010, it remains 19% above its 1995 value. There has also been a long-term decline in the reporting rate from

gardens, with the June value (67%) the second lowest ever in summer but the November value (83%) was the second highest in the last five years. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been fairly steady since 2013.

At the sites below with nestbox ringing projects, similar to Blue Tit, productivity was slightly lower than 2022. From 195 pairs in seven areas, mean productivity was 4.21 chicks per pair (*cf*. 4.88 at the same sites in 2022).

Breeding Bird Survey: Great Tit in Wales, 1994-2023



Great Tit: breeding productivity		*Pairs*	*Young fledged*	*Young/nest*	*2022 young/nest*
GOWER	Cwm Clydach	42	217	5.17	5.72
CARMARTHEN	RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas	48	189	3.94	6.37
BRECON	Coed Nant Brân	9	38	4.22	4.5
CAERNARFON	Conwy Valley	29	122	4.21	2.69
DENBIGH	Conwy Valley	18	44	2.45	
	Glyn Arthur	8	38	4.75	5.08
	Prion	7	42	6.00	5.00
	Glyn Ceiriog	34	131	3.85	4.32

Notable count. BRECON: >30 fed on fallen Beech mast on a canal towpath at Llangynidr in early Dec.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* TITW BARFOG

Breeds at Newport Wetlands Reserve (RBBP: two pairs in 2022) and occurs occasionally at other reedbeds in southeast Wales. Bred in Anglesey (1967-69) and Gower (1973-86). Elsewhere, rare autumn and winter visitor. Eight records away from Gwent and East Glamorgan during 2000-22. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	20	24
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding. GWENT: two pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve.

Bearded Tit: max. counts	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Newport Wetlands	3	4	3	2	2	3		1	7	6	2	

Records from other counties, singles unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 18 Oct.; Kenfig on 22 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: male and two females at Ashpits Pond on 4-6 April, first in the county since 1992; FLINT: male at Gronant on 12 Oct.

2022 FLINT: pair at Pt of Ayr on 13 May.

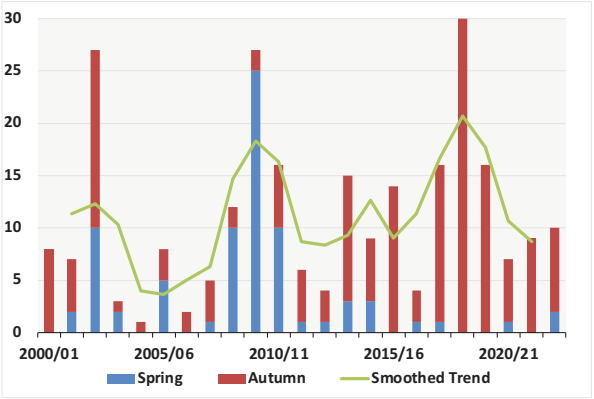
2020 GWENT, breeding season: two pairs bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth).

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* EHEDYDD COED

Former breeding species. Uncommon, usually on autumn passage.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	9	10
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Woodlark: all records, 2000/01-2022/23



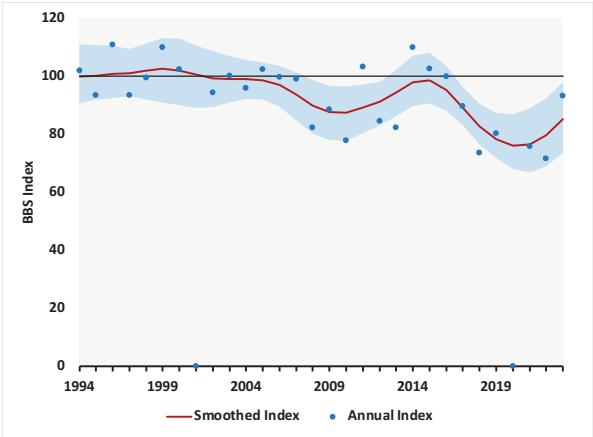
Non-breeding, singles unless stated. E.GLAMORGAN: two at Lavernock Pt on 12 Oct., four here on 16th, two on 22nd and one on 25th; GOWER: two over Rhossili on 21 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Rhiwddolion on 15 April; two at Morfa Nefyn on 30 Oct.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* EHEDYDD

Fairly common and widespread but declining breeding species (115,000 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2792	3124
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	13%

Breeding Bird Survey: Skylark in Wales, 1994-2023



Following several poor years, the Breeding Bird Survey index was 30% higher than 2022, bringing the smoothed trend back from its record low to a deficit of 21% since 1995. The only site with a comparable count was Newport Wetlands, with 21 singing males (*cf*. 29 in 2022). The BirdTrack reporting rate also increased, to its highest level since 2015. This may result from elevated numbers on migration, movements that were particularly evident in Pembrokeshire.

Counts ≥100. E.GLAMORGAN: 150 at Southerndown on 24 Jan.; 105 at Sker Pt on 14 Oct.; GOWER: *c*.200 above Common Cliff on 7 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.100 at Kidwelly Marsh on 8 Jan. and 250 here on 22nd; >100 at Pembrey Burrows on 23 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Marloes Mere on 1 Jan. and 25 Nov.; 658 on stubble at Trehill Farm, Marloes, on 27 Jan.; 110 at Druidstone on 28 Jan.; 100 on St Govan's Head on 8 Oct.; on seven dates on Skomer between 9 Oct. and 10 Nov. (max. 348 on 15th); 228 over Skokholm on 10 Oct. and 491 on 31st, the highest island count since 1988; 150 on Dale airfield on 26 Oct.; 130 at Treffynnon on 11 Nov.; CEREDIGION: max. 200 at Llanon on 8 Oct.; BRECON: 100 at Bronllys on 19 Jan.; *c*.100 in root crop above Heol Senni on 27 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 126 on Bardsey on 8 Oct., 274 here on 9th, 213 on 12th, 311 on 22nd and 172 on 25th; ANGLESEY: 120 at Aberffraw on 4 Jan.; FLINT: 150 on Flint Marsh on 1 Jan.; 100 at Pt of Ayr on 22 Jan.; *c*.100 at Gronant on 29 Nov.

SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* EHEDYDD LLWYD

Scarce visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 38 previous records

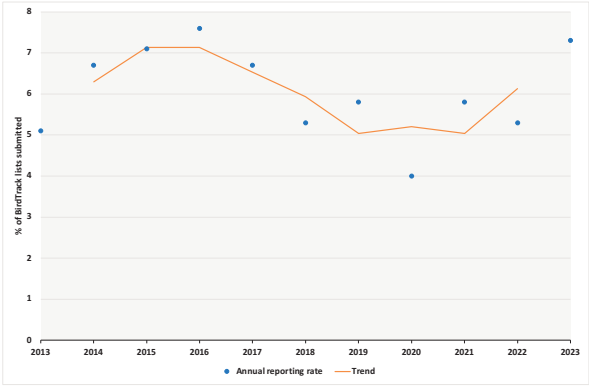
PEMBROKE: summered at Dale Airfield from 29 May to 6 Sept. (reported present to 9th).

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties. Passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1315	1850
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	7%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Sand Martin in Wales 2013-23



The UK indices for both the Breeding Bird Survey and the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey were both up on the previous year, and the smoothed trend for the latter scheme reached a record high. Although far from comparable in statistical robustness, the BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales produced its highest value since 2016, and the average for 2021-23 was similar to 2013-15.

Breeding colonies (Apparently Occupied Nests if reported). GWENT: R.Monnow at Skenfrith and Kentchurch, and five sites on R.Usk; E.GLAMORGAN: 5 AON at a new site at Cilfynydd, and five other colonies; GOWER: survey recorded 112-120 AON at 15 sites (*cf*. 122-27 in 2022), largest of 30 at Melincwrt brook; CARMARTHEN: 29 AON in ash cliffs east of Burry Port; 50 AON on R.Tywi at Llandovery; also bred at Llandeilo, Dryslwyn and Dredger Jetty, Pwll; PEMBROKE: 60 AON at Marloes Sands, 59 AON at Newgale beach, >40 AON at Castlemartin Range West, 20 AON at Abermawr, 12 AON at Llawhaden, 6 AON at Freshwater West, and colonies at six other sites; BRECON: 225 AON on R.Usk at Scethrog; also bred on on R.Usk at Brecon, Buckland and above Pont-ar-Wysg, on R.Tawe at Cae'rlan and Cae'r-bont, on R.Wye at

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Sand Martin	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	14 March	Usk & Newport Wetlands	25 Sept.	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	12 March	Kenfig NNR	26 Sept.	Llanishen & Lisvane Reservoirs
GOWER	**25 Feb.**	**Mynydd Dinas**	30 Sept.	Morriston
CARMARTHEN	15 March	Llyn Pencarreg	23 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	3 March	Penberi Reservoir	**8 Oct.**	**St Govan's Head**
CEREDIGION	13 March	Teifi Marshes	3 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	14 March	Llangorse Lake	1 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	15 March	Glasbury	3 Sept.	Glasbury
MONTGOMERY	15 March	Dolydd Hafren	8 Sept.	Berriew
MEIRIONNYDD	20 March	Cynwyd	21 Sept.	Artro estuary
CAERNARFON	17 March	Morfa Aber	2 Oct.	Daron Valley & Llanengan
ANGLESEY	17 March	RSPB South Stack & Cors Ddyga	30 Sept.	Traeth Lligwy
DENBIGH	28 Feb.	RSPB Conwy	23 Sept.	World's End
FLINT	15 March	Gronant	30 Sept.	RSPB Point of Ayr

The last of the year in FLINT was 12 days later than the previous latest this century, on 18 Sept. 2009.

Pipton and Builth Wells, and on R.Caerfanell; RADNOR: R.Wye at Glasbury; MONTGOMERY: bred at Caersws; MEIRIONNYDD: 37 AON at Mochras, 20 AON at Llyn Celyn, 15-20 AON in sea cliffs at Tonfanau and bred by R.Gain in Coed-y-brenin; CAERNARFON: seven sites, inc. Porthdinllaen where 150 birds on 19 July; ANGLESEY: 51 AON at Tywyn Fferam; 12 AON at Rhosneigr; two colonies on west side of Cemlyn Bay; bred at Traeth Lligwy; DENBIGH: 37 AON on R.Conwy at Trefriw; also bred at Aled Isaf Res. and northeast arm of Llyn Brenig.

Counts ≥100. GWENT: 150 at Llanfihangel Gobion on 20 April; *c*.100 in Nedern Valley on 26 April; >100 at Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff) on 20 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Cardiff Bay on 16 March, 438 here on 31st, and >100 on 11 dates in April, inc. 350 on 9th, >500 on 14th and 457 on 18th; up to 150 at Llanishen & Lisvane Res. on 29-30 March and 12-14 April; >100 at Merthyr Mawr on 1 April; 300 roosted at Cwmbach Wetlands on 29 April and 3 May; 100 at Kenfig NNR on 18 Aug.; 100 at West Aberthaw on 3 Sept.; GOWER: 110 at Fendrod Lake on 11 April; 200 over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 13 April; GOWER/CARMARTHEN: 100 in Upper Loughor est. on 18 June and 150 here on 21st; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Llyn Pencarreg on 20 March and 350 here on 24 April; 220 at Sandy WP on 28 March and 230 here on 31st; 110 at Neville's Dock, Llanelli, on 31 March; PEMBROKE: 500 at Llys-y-fran Res. on 23 March and 2500 here on 1 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi Marshes on nine dates between 20 March and 17 April (max. 500 on 1st); CEREDIGION: 400 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 15 Sept.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on six dates between 31 March and 4 May, inc. 2500 on 11 and 24 April, >600 roosted here in late June, 1500 on 1 July, 2000 on 9th, 20th and 27th, and 1000 here on 6-15 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 150 at Abersoch on 7 May; 102 on Bardsey on 16 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 110 at Cefni Res. on 24 March and 250 here on 5 April; 200 roosted at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 18 April; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 10 dates in April, max. *c*.500 on 21st; FLINT: 153 at Brickfield Pond NR on 12 April; 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 21 April.

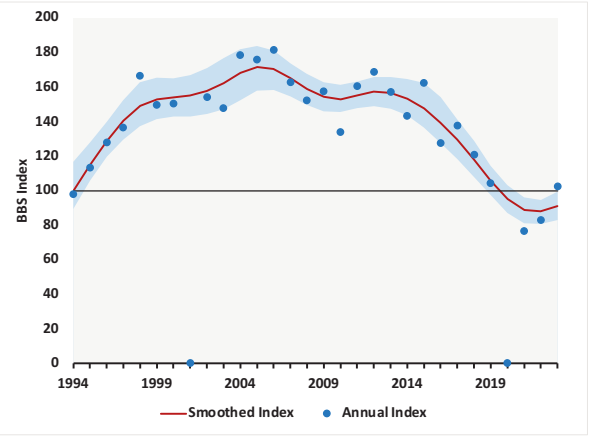
2020 GWENT, additional records: earliest at Liswerry Pond and Newport Wetlands Reserve on 19 March; five colonies on R.Usk, four on R.Monnow, and singles on R.Monnow and R.Ebbw; counts of 300 at Newport Moorings and >100 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 11 July.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* GWENNOL

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (82,000 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4960	6081
% of BirdTrack lists	21%	25%

Breeding Bird Survey: Swallow in Wales, 1994-2023



A welcome, and significant, 23% increase in the Breeding Bird Survey index since the previous year, an uptick reflected across the UK. The smoothed index (to 2022) has fallen by 44% in just 10 years, however, and on its long-term trend (-23%) is close to Amber-list qualification in Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate was its highest for five years but the three-year average is still 26% below that of 2013-15. A late brood on ANGLESEY fledged near Llanfachraeth on 12 Oct.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN) - March to November.

Swallow	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	13 March	Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth)	27 Oct.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	14 March	Lamby Lake	29 Oct.	Penarth
GOWER	19 March	Reynoldston	17 Oct.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	18 March	Salem	21 Nov.	Ginst Point
PEMBROKE	17 March	Rhodiad y Brenin	**27 Nov.***	**Tenby & Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	11 March	Llanddewi Brefi	25 Oct.	Aberystwyth
BRECON	23 March	Llanwrthwl	22 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	24 March	Clyro	31 Oct.	Llowes & Clyro
MONTGOMERY	27 March	Aberhafesp	2 Oct.	Cemmaes
MEIRIONNYDD	20 March	Broadwater	15 Oct.	Glaslyn marshes
CAERNARFON	9 March	Felinheli	23 Nov.	Rhyd-y-clafdy
ANGLESEY	**5 March**	**RSPB Cors Ddyga**	26 Nov.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	22 March	RSPB Conwy	8 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	25 March	Flint Castle	17 Oct.	Three locations

*not including a winter record at Marloes Mere on 1 Dec.

Counts ≥300 on spring passage. PEMBROKE: 306 over Skokholm on 16 April and 520 here on 23rd; >1000 over Strumble Head on 23 and 24 April and 300 here on 10 May; BRECON: 300 at Llangorse Lake on 24 April; CAERNARFON: 402 on Bardsey on 2 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 500 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 13 June.

Counts ≥300 on autumn passage. GWENT: 413 at Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff) in five hours on 17 Sept. and 471 here in 90 minutes on 30th; E.GLAMORGAN: 881 at Lavernock Pt in three hours on 2 Sept., 750 here in three hours on 3rd, 500 in two hours on 16th, 300 in 1.5 hours on 28th and 400 in two hours on 16 Oct.; min. 10,000 east at West Aberthaw in 3.5 hours on 3 Sept.; 560 at Abercwmboi Lake on 30 Sept.; 2500 at Dunraven and >400 in three hours at Kenfig NNR on 2 Oct.; GOWER: 300 at Wernffrwd on 31 Aug.; 300 at Mewslade on 10 Sept.; 300 at Baglan on 30 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 300 over Skomer on 7 Sept., 500 here on 13th, 300 on 21st and 531 on 1 Oct.; 454 over Skokholm on 13 Sept., 307 here on 21st and 368 on 1 Oct.; 400 at St Govan's Head on 22 Sept.; 700 at Marloes Mere on 26 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 220 at Llanrhystud on 29 Aug.; 700 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 6 Sept.; BRECON: 450 at Llangorse Lake on 26 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: >1000 over Cemmaes on 2 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 692 over Bardsey on 11 Aug., 1483 here on 21st and 2828 on 2 Oct.; *c*.8000 south over Morfa Aber in one hour on 2 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 3000 roosted at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 26 Aug.; *c*.3000 roosted at Llyn Maelog on 19 Sept.

Notable. An albino individual (all white with a pink bill and legs) was at Dinas Cross, PEMBROKE, on 3 Aug.

2020 GWENT: earliest record was at Monmouth on 28 March and latest at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Nov.; 304 at Magor Pill on 6 Oct.

Swallow X House Martin
DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 15 April.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* GWENNOL Y BONDO

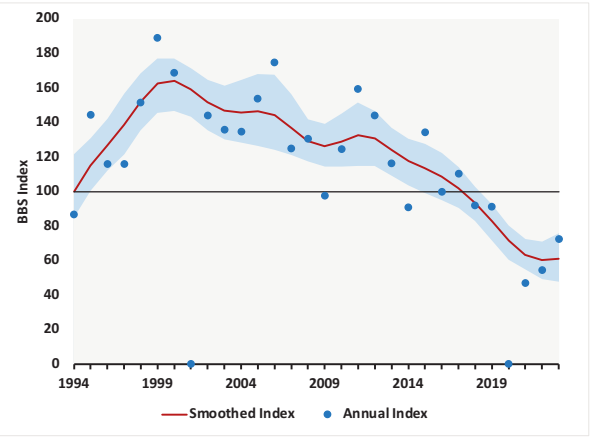
Fairly common summer visitor (67,500 pairs). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2444	2960
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	12%

Although the one-year increase, of 34%, in the annual Breeding Bird Survey index is encouraging (and note the confidence intervals), the House Martin remains of conservation concern having declined

by 48% since 1995, and 54% in just 10 years. The BirdTrack reporting rate has also fallen, by 30% between 2013-15 and 2021-23, although it was higher this year than in the last couple. By contrast, the BTO Garden BirdWatch shows no strong trend.

Breeding Bird Survey: House Martin in Wales, 1994-2023



Apparently Occupied Nests. GWENT: five sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 7-9 sites, inc. 8 AON at Abercwmboi, 5 AON on Brynffynnon Hotel-Llanwonno and 3 AON in Cardiff Bay; GOWER: 20 sites, inc. 15 AON on a house at Llandarcy and 4 AON at Castell Ddu; CARMARTHEN: three broods from two nests north of Llannon; also bred at Llandeilo; PEMBROKE: 19 sites, inc. 9 AON on Ramsey, 5 AON at Withybush showground, 3 AON at St Ann's Head and in Tenby, 2 AON on cliffs at Freshwater West, and probably nested on cliffs at Aber Step; CEREDIGION: bred at Llanarth; BRECON: 23 sites inc. 14 AON at Aberbran, 12 on a house at Cradoc, >10 AON at Nant Ddu Lodge and 10 AON at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl; RADNOR: three sites; MONTGOMERY: four sites; MEIRIONNYDD: nine sites, inc. 9 AON at Llyn Trawsfynydd and Cwm Prysor, and >7 AON at Abergeirw; CAERNARFON: nine sites, inc. 15 AON at Plas-y-brenin, 8 AON on Ogwen Cottage and Bardsey, 4 AON in Craig-y-don and 2 AON in Nant Gwynant and Llanengan; ANGLESEY: seven sites, inc. two in Llangefni: 25 AON at Coleg Menai and 5 AON at Ysgol Gyfun; DENBIGH: nine sites; FLINT: three sites.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

House Martin	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	6 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve	17 Oct.	Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	30 March	Three locations	21 Oct.	Lavernock Point and Parc Slip NR
GOWER	3 April	Oxwich	26 Sept.	Morriston & Mayhill
CARMARTHEN	**14 March**	**Ashpits Pond, Pwll**	25 Oct.	Machynys
PEMBROKE	18 March	Penberi	13 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	30 March	Teifi Marshes	9 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	22 March	Hay-on-Wye and Scethrog	30 Sept.	Bwlch
RADNOR	1 April	Llandrindod Wells	4 Oct.	Boughrood
MONTGOMERY	9 April	Wern	2 Oct.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	6 April	Tonfanau	21 Sept.	Craig-y-llyn
CAERNARFON	29 March	Llandudno Junction	20 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	**14 March**	**Llyn Llygeirian**	**31 Oct.**	**Breakwater CP, Holyhead**
DENBIGH	24 March	RSPB Conwy	29 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	28 March	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands	2 Oct.	Cilcain and Connah's Quay NR

The first of the year in RADNOR was the earliest county record ever, three days ahead of one in 1990. The first in DENBIGH was the earliest this century, 17 days ahead of one in 2011.

Counts ≥200. GWENT: 2199 at Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff) in 5.5 hours on 17 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 250 past Lavernock Pt in 1.75 hours on 16 Sept. and 320 here in two hours on 17th; PEMBROKE: 200 at Llanychaer on 19 and 23 May; CEREDIGION: 200 over Aberaeron on 13 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 183 at Lake

Vyrnwy on 9 Aug.; 200 at Gregynog on 24 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 203 over Bardsey on 2 Sept., 327 here on 5th and 340 on 11th.

2020 GWENT: bred at 13 sites, inc. 15 AON in Bettws and 7-8 AON at Rogerstone; 1200 over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 2 Oct.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropsis rufula* GWENNOL DINGOCH

Scarce visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 36 previous records.

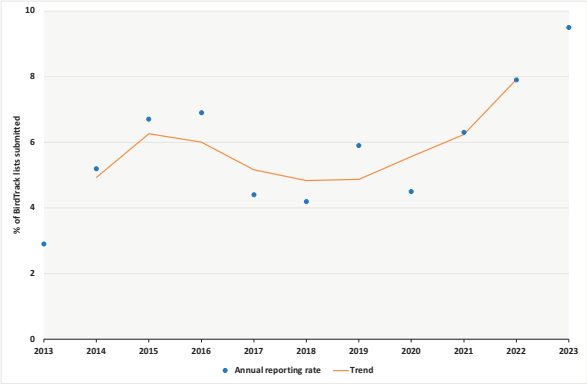
DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 11-12 April.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* TELOR CETTI

Uncommon but increasing resident (300-600 breeding pairs). Occasional away from core areas in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1875	2263
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	10%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Cetti's Warbler in Wales 2013-23



The BirdTrack reporting rate reached a record value for the second consecutive year, the three-year mean having increased by 60% since 2013-15. The count at the most important site, Newport Wetlands Reserve, made a partial recovery towards its high of 91 in 2021. There is no Wales index from the Breeding Bird Survey, but that for the UK has increased by an impressive 934% since 1995, and 343% in just the last 10 years.

Singing males in breeding season unless stated: GWENT: 88 at Newport Wetlands, five at Peterstone Wentlooge, Magor Marsh and St Brides, three at Redwick and 1-2 at seven other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 17 around Cardiff Bay, nine at Cors Crychydd Reen, eight at Cadoxton Ponds, seven at Kenfig NNR, four at four sites, three in Porthcawl, two at Grangemoor Park, and singles at six sites; GOWER: six at Oxwich NNR and Kenfig reedbed, three at Cors Crymlyn and Castell Ddu, and singles at 11 sites; CARMARTHEN: 35 at Penclacwydd, eight at Ffwrd Fen, seven at Pwll, four at Kidwelly Quay, three at Ashpits Pond, Penrhyngwyn Pond and Glan yr Afon, 1-2 at five other sites; PEMBROKE: six at Castlemartin Corse, five at Teifi Marshes, four at Goodwick Moor, three at Freshwater West and Tenby Ritec marsh, and 1-2 at 13 other sites; CEREDIGION: two at RSPB Ynys-hir and below Pendinas, and singles at six other sites; BRECON: six at Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: four at Cors Dyfi and two at Pwll Penarth; MEIRIONNYDD: singles at Pennal and Artro est.; CAERNARFON: nine at Ystumllyn (highest site total); singles at eight other sites; ANGLESEY: 41 at RSPB Cors Ddyga (*cf.* 22 in 2022); 25 at RSPB Valley Wetlands (*cf.* 17 in 2022); four at Rhoscolyn, 3-4 at Llyn Maelog, two at Llyn Alaw and singles at nine other sites; DENBIGH: 3-4 at RSPB Conwy; two near Glan Conwy; singles at five sites; FLINT: eight at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (23 across whole site), five at Gronant, and singles at six sites.

2020 GWENT: 120 singing males across the county during the breeding season, considered to be a significant underestimate of the total.

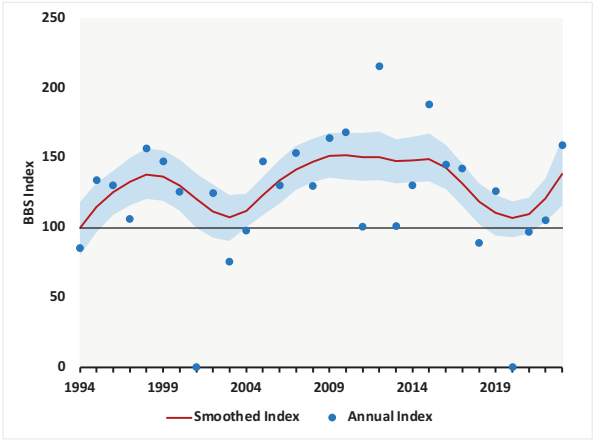
Long-tailed Tit (Linda Yeardley-Williams)

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* TITW CYNFFONHIR

Fairly common resident (28,000 territories), widely distributed except on parts of Llŷn and Anglesey, and rare on other islands. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4150	4784
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	21%

Breeding Bird Survey: Long-tailed Tit in Wales, 1994-2023



Long-tailed Tit numbers were up significantly (51%) on the previous year, reversing a recent dip in their fortunes. Although the smoothed Breeding Bird Survey index remains 20% below its level of 10 years ago, it is now back above the 1995 level. The increase is evident in the reporting rates for both BirdTrack, up 23% since 2013-15, and the BTO Garden BirdWatch, the late winter peak showing presence in 46% of gardens, the third highest on record.

Max. site counts ≥20 outside breeding season. GWENT: 25 at Llanwenarth on 15 Aug.; 25 at Tintern on 29 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 25 in Cardiff Bay on 19 Jan.; >100 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 21 Jan.; 30 at Hendre Lake on 22-23 March; 25 at Fairwater on 26 Aug.; 21 at Parc Aberdare on 20 Oct.; 29 over Sker on 22 Oct.; 20 at Lavernock Pt on 23 Oct.; 25 at

Kenfig NNR on 12 Nov.; 40 in Sully on 14 Nov.; 20 at Bryngarw CP on 16 Nov.; 21 at Hirwaun on 3 Dec.; 24 in Parc Tredelerch on 10 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Penclacwydd on 7 Aug. and 27 here on 23 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 23 at Penally on 9 Oct.; 23 at NT Southwood on 30 Oct.; 26 at St Brides on 11 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 20 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 24 Oct.; BRECON: 20 at Brecon STW on 22 Jan.; 21 at Usk Res. on 28 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 50 at Wern on 12 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 23 at Pennal on 11 Dec.; CAERNARFON: >20 at Trefriw on 15 Sept.; 21 in Bangor on 8-9 Oct.; *c*.20 at Morfa Madryn on 15 Oct. and 25 Nov.; 30 at The Spinnies on 29 Dec.; DENBIGH: 23 at Fenn's Moss on 5 Jan.; *c*.20 at RSPB Conwy on 17 Oct.; FLINT: 20 at Flint on 6 Jan. and Shotton on 28 Aug.; 33 at St Asaph on 18 Nov.

Notable. PEMBROKE: nine on Skokholm on 3 Nov. was only the 12th island record and the highest ever count.

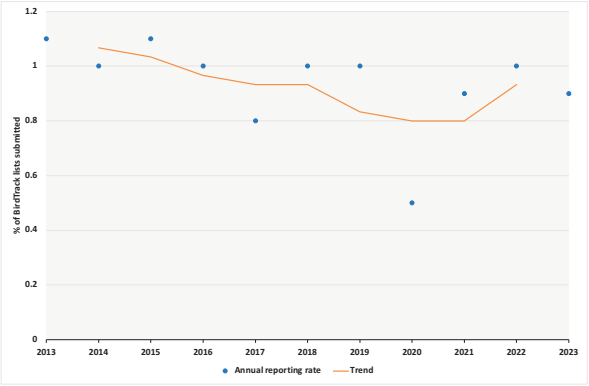
2020 GWENT: 21 at Llanbadoc in Nov.; 27 at Llanellen in Dec.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* TELOR COED

Localised and uncommon, but declining, summer visitor to upland woods (2850 breeding males). Passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	249	275
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Wood Warbler in Wales 2013-23



There is no Breeding Bird Survey trend for Wales, but the UK trend showed an 81% decline since 1995. Over the shorter-term, the BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales has fallen by 13% since 2013-15, but the decline in numbers (rather than presence) is presumed to be far greater. A rapid assessment of eight sites in Mid and West Wales suggested that numbers could be 50% lower than in 2009-11, while in CAERNARFON there were none in woodlands around Llanberis by late May.

Site maxima, usually singing males. GWENT: five in Llanthony Wood, four near Cwmavon, three at Trellech and 1-2 at nine other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: four at Abercwmboi Forest; bred at three other sites and singles at another eight; GOWER: 1-2 at 10 sites, including probable breeding at Cwm Clydach, Upper Lliw Res. and Craig Emroch; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Coed Cnwch-yr-ŵydd, eight at RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas, seven at Allt Rhyd y Groes NNR, four at Allt Pen-y-rhiw, three in Carms part of Halfway Forest, and 1-2 at eight other sites; PEMBROKE: three at Minwear Wood and two at Pengelli Forest; CEREDIGION: 14 at Hafod Estate-Cwmystwyth, 10 between Ystumtuen and Cwm Rheidol, eight at Tywi Forest, Cwm Clettwr and Strata Florida, seven at Coed Maenarthur, six at Allt y Crib, four at Long Wood-Betws Bledrws (*cf*. 11 here in 2017 prior to Larch removal) and 1-2 at eight other sites; BRECON: five at Coed Tŷ-mawr, Buckland Hill and Coed Estyn, four in Nant Mellte, three at RSPB Carngafallt, 1-2 at 18 other sites; RADNOR: in Elan Valley, 11 at Penygarreg Res. and two at Llanerchi Wood; seven at Dyffryn, four at Gilfach and 1-2 at five other sites; MONTGOMERY: four in Cwm Glesyrch, bred at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy and singles at eight other

sites; MEIRIONNYDD: seven at Llanfachreth, five at Bod Petryal and Ceunant Llennyrch NNR, four in Abergwynant and at Coed Llyn Mair, three at Aberglaslyn, Gallt Cefn-deuddwr and elsewhere in Coed y Brenin, and 1-2 at 23 other sites; CAERNARFON: four in Coed y Gwmannog-Trefriw, three at Llyn Crafnant, Cadair Ifan Goch, Beddgelert Forest and Nant Llugwy, and 1-2 at 14 other sites; DENBIGH: three at Nercwys Pant Du, Clocaenog Forest, Eglwyseg Valley and north Berwyn, and singles at two other sites; FLINT: two at Penycloddiau and Bryn-yr-Eithin near Afonwen.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Wood Warbler	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	22 April	Nant y Gollen, Pontypool	no autumn records	
E.GLAMORGAN	14 April	St Fagans	**27 Aug.**	**Pwll y Waun NR**
GOWER	25 April	Rhyslyn	no autumn records	
CARMARTHEN	**5 April**	**Allt Rhyd-y-groes**	no autumn records	
PEMBROKE	25 April	Minwear Wood	no autumn records	
CEREDIGION	20 April	Cwm Clettwr & Cwm Einion	12 Aug.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	25 April	Buckland Wood	no autumn records	
RADNOR	16 April	Llandrindod Wells	5 Aug.	Elan Valley
MONTGOMERY	25 April	Coed Mitchen, Llanerfyl	no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	15 April	Clawdd Dolfach	9 Aug.	Bod Petryal
CAERNARFON	8 April	Trefriw	25 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	26 April	Newborough	no autumn records	
DENBIGH	27 April	Eglwyseg	no autumn records	
FLINT	21 May	below Penycloddiau	no autumn records	

There were some notably early arrivals, including the earliest this century in CARMARTHEN, by 10 days (*cf.* 2009), and MEIRIONNYDD, by two days (*cf*. 2022).

2020 GWENT, additional records: earliest was at Garndiffaith on 16 April and latest at Lower Machen on 5 Oct.; territories at nine sites, inc. Cwmavon where three of eight nests found failed at the egg or chick stage.

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* TELOR BONELLI Y GORLLEWIN

Rare visitor from northwest Europe. WBRC: 16 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 1CY ringed on Skokholm on 23 Aug. Identification confirmed by mtDNA.

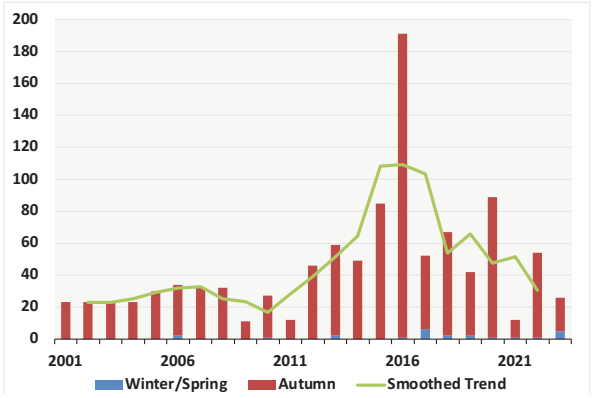
YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* TELOR AELFELYN

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, from northeast Europe. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	103	45
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Following several records in December 2022, only one remained into January, at Kenfig NNR, E.GLAMORGAN, until 7th. The first of the autumn, near Carmel Head, ANGLESEY, on 13 Sept. was the earliest ever recorded in Wales, and was preceded by only one other individual anywhere in Britain in 2023. However, any hopes that this was the precursor to good numbers were unfulfilled, with only around 20 individuals.

Yellow-browed Warbler: all records, 2001-23



Yellow-browed Warbler: county totals		*Jan*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
E.GLAMORGAN		1				
GOWER					1	
PEMBROKE					6	
CAERNARFON	Bardsey				6	
	elsewhere				1	
ANGLESEY				1	4-5	
FLINT					1	1

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* TELOR PALLAS

Scarce autumn visitor from northern Siberia. WBRC: 52 previous records.

FLINT: Talacre on 31 Oct., the first for the county.

2016 ANGLESEY: Breakwater CP, Holyhead on 16 Oct.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* TELOR HELYG

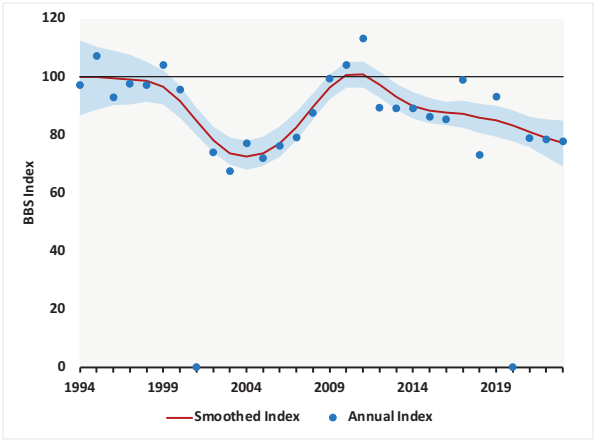
Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Numerous up to c.670m but becoming less common in lowland habitats in the south. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2589	3339
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	14%

The Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen annually for the last dozen years, and by 2022 was 21% below its 1995 level. The decline is also detected in the BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales, which fell 18% between 2013-15 and 2021-23. The only sites with comparable breeding figures were RSPB Ynys-hir, CEREDIGION, where 52 singing males were recorded in 129ha of upland (*cf*. 28 in 2013), and on ANGLESEY, where RSPB Cors Ddyga recorded 65 singing males (*cf*. 63 in 2017), and RSPB Valley Wetlands with 45 singing males (*cf.* 42 in 2017), although neither site is 'classic' habitat for the species. There were 197 territories at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, MONTGOMERY, making it the second commonest species in the area surveyed after Wren.

Sites with ≥10 singing males on territory in southeast Wales. GWENT: 11 at Garn Lakes on 22 April and 29 May; 11 at St David's Vale and Llanelly on 23 April; 10 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 24 April; 19 on Blorenge on 24 May; 10 at The Park, Sugar Loaf on 15 June; 10 at Wentwood on 26 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Clydach Lakes on 6 April; 23 at Kenfig NNR on 10 May; 19 at Llantrisant Common on 20 April; 10 at Mynydd Meio on 28 April; 11 at Blaencaerau and 10 at Mynydd Ton on 29 April; 11 on Cilfynydd Common on 7 May; 10 at Cwm Rhydymilwyr on 11 May; 10 at Gilfach on 13 May; 12 at Cwmparc on 26 May; 13 at Hirwaun Opencast on 18 June; BRECON: 18 at Cefn Moel on 25 April; 16 at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad on 23 April; 10 at Beudy Bach on 29 April; 19 at Yr Allt, Sennybridge, on 2 June; 12 at Forest Fach on 4 June; >15 at Cnwch Wood on 8 June; 22 over 4km at Bwlch on 9 June; 18 over 2km at Glascwm Isaf on 16 June; *c*.20 in Nant Mellte on 23 June.

Breeding Bird Survey: Willow Warbler in Wales, 1994-2023



Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Willow Warbler	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	22 March	Peterstone Wentlooge	9 Oct.	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	**19 March**	**Sker Point**	8 Oct.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	25 March	Jersey Marine	14 Oct.	Loughor Bridge
CARMARTHEN	**19 March**	**Pwll**	8 Sept.	Llandybïe
PEMBROKE	**19 March**	**Skokholm**	**24 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	26 March	RSPB Ynys-hir	10 Oct.	Llyn Pendam
BRECON	1 April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl	17 Aug.	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	27 March	New Radnor	15 Sept.	Llowes
MONTGOMERY	29 March	Dolydd Hafren	12 Sept.	Dylife
MEIRIONNYDD	1 April	Dyffryn Ardudwy	17 Sept.	Llanfrothen
CAERNARFON	23 March	Conwy Mountain	1 Oct.	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	25 March	Wylfa Woods	23 Sept.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	28 March	RSPB Conwy	9 Sept.	Llanddulas
FLINT	29 March	Brickfield Pond NR	27 Aug.	Point of Ayr

A small influx into southern Wales on 19 March included the earliest ever recorded on Skokholm, PEMBROKE.

Counts of ≥10 elsewhere on spring passage. E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Kenfig NNR on 7 and 15 April; GOWER: 11 at Cwm Ivy on 13 April; PEMBROKE: 25 on Ramsey on 2 April and 50 here on 20th; Skokholm on 14 dates between 2 April and 1 May, max. 103 on 17th; 12 at Pen Castell-coch on 4 April; 66 on Skomer on 17 April; CEREDIGION: 10 at Aberporth on 4 April; 12 at Llanerchaeron on 13 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 28 at Mochras on 8 April; CAERNARFON: 432 on Bardsey on 4 April, 127 here on 16th, 331 on 17th, 191 on 21st, 120 on 22nd and 39 on 1 May.

Counts of ≥10 on autumn passage. E.GLAMORGAN: 18 at Kenfig NNR on 26 July, 17 on 3 Aug. and 12 on 16th; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on eight dates between 13 Aug. and 8 Sept., max. 71 on 23rd; 14 at Stackpole on 13 Aug.; 10 at Higgon's Well on 1 Sept.; 20 on Skomer on 26 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 11 on Bardsey on 25

July, 24 here on 4th, 256 on 14th, 15 on 23rd, >10 on 28th and 11 on 6th; ANGLESEY: 55 at RSPB South Stack on 14 Aug.

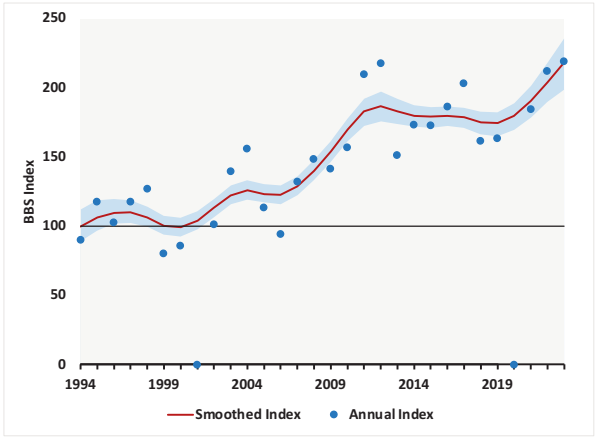
2020 GWENT, additional records of ≥10 singing males on territory: 20 at Blaenavon on 21 April; 27 in Blaenavon Forest in April; 21 along disused railway at Cwm Afon on 8 May.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* SIFF-SIAFF

Abundant summer visitor (245,000 breeding territories) and on passage. Winters in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	6488	7159
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	30%

Breeding Bird Survey: Chiffchaff in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey index for 2023 was the highest ever, bringing the smoothed trend to a level 95% above the 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate in winter 2022/23 was above average, at 4.1%, but was more typical in winter 2023/24.

Notable counts on spring passage. GWENT: 16 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 8 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Hendre Lake on 6 April; CARMARTHEN: >10 at Pwll on 21 March; PEMBROKE: 17 on Skokholm and 18 on Skomer on 18 March, and 22 at the latter on 3 April; >10 at Stackpole on 27 March and Monkstone Pt on 2 April; 10 on Ramsey on 10 April; 14 at Pen Dinas on 14 April; RADNOR: 15 at Llanbwchllyn on 20 March; CAERNARFON: max. 77 on Bardsey on 27 March and 87 on 4 April.

Winter records, including those of *P.c. tristis* listed on p.187. The February count in CARMARTHEN included a min. 10 at Kidwelly Quay on 9th and that for January in PEMBROKE included 10 at Newgale STW on 22nd.

	Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
GWENT	7	13	4	9
E.GLAMORGAN	20	11	30	13
GOWER	3	8	4	
CARMARTHEN	13	13	7	6
PEMBROKE	40	13	16	7
CEREDIGION	4	1		
BRECON		3	2	1
RADNOR	1			2
MONTGOMERY	1	4	3	1
MEIRIONNYDD				3
CAERNARFON	4	9	1	6
ANGLESEY	12	10	6	6
DENBIGH	4	6	3	4
FLINT	5	7	2	2

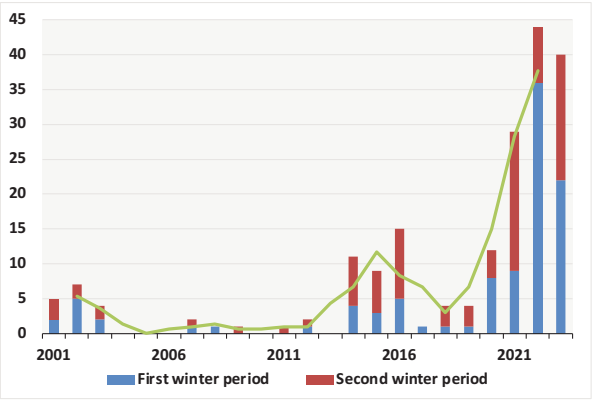
Autumn passage. GWENT: 41 at Newport Wetlands on 8 Sept. and 21 here on 30 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 30 along R.Ely near Clawdd-côch on 20 Aug.; >20 at Peterston & Pendoylan Moors on 25 Aug.; 15 at Kenfig NNR on 31 Aug. and 23 here on 6 Sept.; >20 at Aberthaw lagoon on 22 Sept.; GOWER: *c.*30 at Mewslade on 3 Sept.; 25 at Pitton on 17 Sept.; 19 ringed at Oxwich NNR on 30 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 50 at Kidwelly Quay STW and 10 at Sandy WP on 10 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 12 at St Govan's Head on 21 Sept.; 15 at Mullock Bridge on 23 Sept.; 15 at Poppit on 25 Sept.; 14 on Skokholm on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 20 at Morfa Madryn NR on 9 Sept.; 20 at The Spinnies on 15 Sept.; max. 27 on Bardsey on 18 Sept.

2020 GWENT, autumn passage counts: 10 at Peterstone on 31 Aug. and 5 Sept., and 10 on 16th; 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 26 Sept., 10 on 27th, 12 on 29th, 50 on 1 Oct., 10 on 13th and 22nd; 43 near Redwick on 1 Oct. and 51 on 6th; in second winter period, 1-2 at 14 sites.

***P.c. tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff / Siff-siaff Siberia)**

Uncommon autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor. 179 records since 1995.

Siberian Chiffchaff: all records, 2001-23



Since records of this species are no longer assessed by the WBRC, those published here were reported to show characteristics of *P.c. tristis*. GWENT: Magor Marsh on 2-17 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: up to three at Kenfig NNR on 2-7 Jan. (one ringed on 3rd); Wick NR on 20 Jan.; Cardiff Bay from 15 Feb. to 6 March; and another here on 17 April; GOWER: Llanrhidian on 17 March; Pitton Cross on 10-14 Oct.; two ringed at Southgate and one at Port Talbot docks on 24 Nov., the latter also seen on 21 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: up to two at Kidwelly Quay STW from 22 Jan. to 9 Feb.; Sandy WP on 19 Feb. and two here on 5 March; Kidwelly Quay on 30 Nov.; Pwll fishing lakes on 2 Dec.; Kidwelly Quay on 6 Dec.; PEMBROKE: up to two at Trefin STW during 1-19 Jan. and one here on 11 Dec.; two at Newgale STW on 16-22 Jan.; Skokholm on 23-24 April, another on 26th, two here on 24 Sept. and one on 22 Nov.; two on Skomer on 9 Oct. and one on 12th and 15th; Martin's Haven on 14-15 Oct.; Gann est. on 20 Oct.; Porth Clais on 25 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 14 April and 15-26 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Holyhead on 12 Oct.; South Stack plantation on 31 Oct.; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24 Nov.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 3 and 26 Dec.; FLINT: Gronant on 21 Jan.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* TELOR HESG

Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, numerous at some sites (19,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

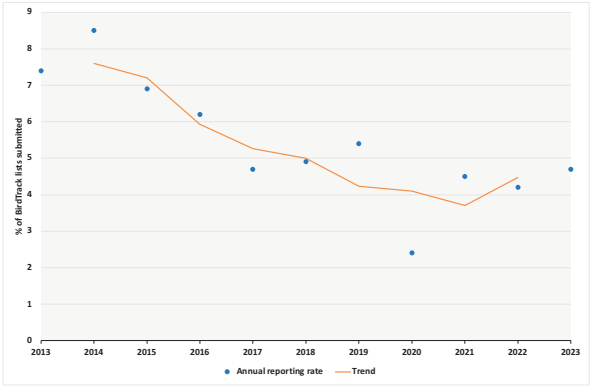
	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	965	1154
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	5%

This is a species in trouble, and not only in Wales. The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen by 19% in just 10 years, although the annual index in 2023 was the highest of any year since 2012. It occurs in too few BBS squares in Wales for a trend to be generated. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales also saw an uptick in 2023 but the three-year mean is 41% lower than in 2013-15.

Breeding territories. GWENT: 18 at Newport Wetlands, four at Wilcrick Moor, 1-3 at nine coastal sites and one at Garn Lakes; E.GLAMORGAN: nine at Kenfig NNR, eight at Cwmbach Wetlands, five on R.Ewenny at Ogmore, 1-2 at 14 sites; GOWER: bred at Oxwich NNR; six at Cwm Ivy, three at Llangennith Burrows and 1-2 at nine sites; CARMARTHEN: 15 at Penclacwydd, 1-2 at seven other sites; PEMBROKE: 41 at Teifi Marshes, 25 on Skomer, 13 on Dowrog Common, 11 on Skokholm, eight at Abereiddi and Castlemartin Corse, seven at Marloes, five at four sites, and 1-4 at 32 others; CEREDIGION: six at RSPB Ynys-hir and Cors Fochno, four at Towyn Warren, three at Ynyslas and Cors Caron ((no survey here but *cf.* 58-85 in 2022),

two at Lampeter and singles at four other sites; BRECON: five at Llangorse Lake; singles at Trecastle and Ysgirfechan; RADNOR: two pairs bred at Llandrindod Lake; 1-2 at Aberithon; MONTGOMERY: eight at Cors Dyfi, four at Dolydd Hafren, two at Hem Moor and singles at three other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at Broadwater, 4 around Artro est., 3 at Llyn Tegid and Tonfanau, and 1-2 at 13 other sites; CAERNARFON: 34 at a site on Pen Llŷn (*cf*. 15 in 2012), six on Bardsey, five at Porthdinllaen, four at four sites; three at three sites and 1-2 at 17 others; ANGLESEY: 169 at RSPB Valley Wetlands (*cf.* 242 when last surveyed in 2017), 143 at RSPB Cors Ddyga, 13 at Cemlyn, four at Pen-y-bonc and Malltraeth Cob; three at five sites and 1-2 at 11 others; DENBIGH: 12 at RSPB Conwy, five at Pulford Brook, two at Erddig and Towyn, singles at 12 other sites; FLINT: 17 at Gronant, five beside Clwyd est., four at Fenn's Moss, three at Brickfield Pond NR and Hawarden Ind. Estate, and 1-2 at 10 other sites.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Sedge Warbler in Wales 2013-23



Passage. E.GLAMORGAN: nine at Kenfig NNR on 3 Aug. and seven here on 16th; PEMBROKE: 23 on Skokholm on 23 July and 20 here on 27th; CAERNARFON: 27 on Bardsey on 1 May.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Sedge Warbler	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**2 April**	**Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth)**	10 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth)
E.GLAMORGAN	23 April	Cardiff Bay & Merthyr Mawr	23 Sept.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	16 April	Whiteford	30 Sept.	Oxwich Marsh
CARMARTHEN	17 April	Kidwelly Quay	3 Sept.	Kymer's Canal, Kidwelly
PEMBROKE	11 April	Teifi Marshes	1 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	11 April	Borth & Teifi Marshes	**2 Oct.**	**RSPB Ynys-hir**
BRECON	15 April	Llangasty	2 Sept.	Llangasty
RADNOR	16 April	Llowes	9 Sept.	Llowes
MONTGOMERY	8 April	Three locations	8 Aug.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	27 April	Llyn Trawsfynydd	30 July	Tal-y-llyn
CAERNARFON	17 April	Bardsey	22 Sept.	Daron Valley
ANGLESEY	7 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga & Valley Wetlands	10 Sept.	Carmel Head
DENBIGH	15 April	RSPB Conwy	2 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	16 April	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands	6 Sept.	Gronant

The two on ANGLESEY on 7 April were a day ahead of the previous earliest on the island this century, in 2000.

2020 GWENT, amendments: 76 ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 11 Aug., and last four here on 22 Sept.

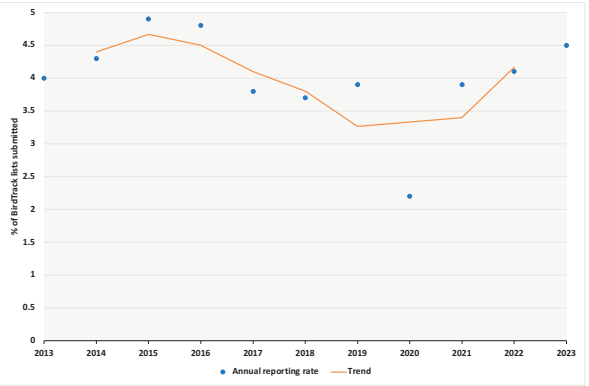
REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* TELOR CYRS

Locally fairly common and increasing summer visitor (11,000 breeding pairs). Uncommon passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	925	1108
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	5%

The UK index for the Breeding Bird Survey has increased slowly, the smoothed trend reaching a new high, 42% above the level in 1995 but it occurs in too few BBS squares in Wales for a trend to be generated. Repeat surveys at two of the major Anglesey wetlands found a 17% reduction since 2017, while counts at a reedbed in Caernarfonshire were 26% lower than in 2012. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has increased slowly since a fall in the middle of the last decade that was also apparent in the UK BBS trend.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Reed Warbler in Wales 2013-23



Breeding territories. GWENT: 19 at Newport Wetlands Reserve, nine at Peterstone Wentlooge, seven at Mathern, six at Peterstone Gout/Sluice Farm and Llanwern, and 1-5 at 19 other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at Kenfig NNR and Cors Crychydd, 13 at Hendre Lake, 10 at Cwmbach Wetlands, eight at Cadoxton Ponds, six at Cosmeston Lakes CP, five at Cardiff Bay Wetlands and Lamby Lake, three at five sites and 1-2 at 12 others; GOWER: six at Oxwich Burrows, four at Cors Crymlyn and Tennent Canal, three at Llanrhidian, and 1-2 at six sites; CARMARTHEN: 32 at Penclacwydd, four at Burry Port and 1-2 at seven sites; PEMBROKE: four at Tenby Marsh and Higgon's Well, three at Gann pools and 1-2 at 18 other sites; CEREDIGION: three at RSPB Ynys-hir, and singles at five other sites; BRECON: >15 at Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: four at Dolydd Hafren, three at Llyn Coed-y-dinas and Cors Dyfi, and two at Trehelig and Pwll Penarth;

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Reed Warbler	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	3 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve	23 Sept.	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	5 April	Cardiff Bay	22 Sept.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	13 April	Cwm Ivy	23 Sept.	Oxwich NNR
CARMARTHEN	**1 April**	**Ashpits**	28 Aug.	Kidwelly Quay
PEMBROKE	19 April	Gann estuary	**12 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	25 April	Teifi Marshes & Aberleri	13 Sept.	Teifi Marshes
BRECON	6 April	Llangorse Lake	2 Sept.	Llangasty
RADNOR	22 April	Llanbwch-llyn	16 Sept.	Llanbwch-llyn
MONTGOMERY	15 April	Cors Dyfi	3 Sept.	Llyn Coed-y-dinas
MEIRIONNYDD	26 April	Ynys	6 July	Bontddu, Mawddach estuary
CAERNARFON	23 April	Glanwydden & Morfa Aber	**12 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	12 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga	11 Sept.	Holyhead harbour
DENBIGH	15 April	RSPB Conwy	2 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	16 April	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands	28 July	Rhydymwyn

The first in CARMARTHEN was three days ahead of the previous earliest county record this century, in 2002.

MEIRIONNYDD: singles at four sites; CAERNARFON: 65 at a site on Pen Llŷn (*cf*. 88 in 2012); eight at Glanwydden, three on Dwyfor est. and 1-2 at nine sites; ANGLESEY: 270 at RSPB Valley Wetlands (*cf*. 300 when last surveyed in 2017); 56 at RSPB Cors Ddyga (*cf.* 91 in 2017); singles at seven sites; DENBIGH: 11 at RSPB Conwy, five at Hanmer Mere, three at Towyn and 1-2 three other sites; FLINT: 26 at Gronant, four at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool and 1-2 at five other sites.

Notable. GOWER: 10 at Oxwich NNR on 16 Sept.; PEMBROKE: seven on Skokholm on 6 Sept. was an island record, and the whole autumn saw a record 10; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 40 at Teifi Marshes on 11 July may have included local breeders and migrants.

2020 GWENT, amendments: earliest were at Magor Pill and Newport Moorings on 9 April; in autumn, 63 ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 11 Aug. and last here on 22 Sept.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* TELOR GWERNI
Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 32 previous records.

ANGLESEY: Hen Borth, Cemlyn on 10-15 Sept.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta* TELOR PER
Scarce migrant from western Europe. WBRC: 232 previous records.

PEMBROKE: ringed on Skokholm on 18 Aug.; Kete on 14-30 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 18-24 Aug., ringed on 18th; Porth Meudwy on 21 Sept.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* TELOR AUR
Scarce migrant from northeast Europe. WBRC: 128 previous records.

DENBIGH: singing male at RSPB Conwy on 7 June.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* TROELLWR BACH
Uncommon summer visitor (2000 breeding territories), widespread but thinly distributed in all counties, and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

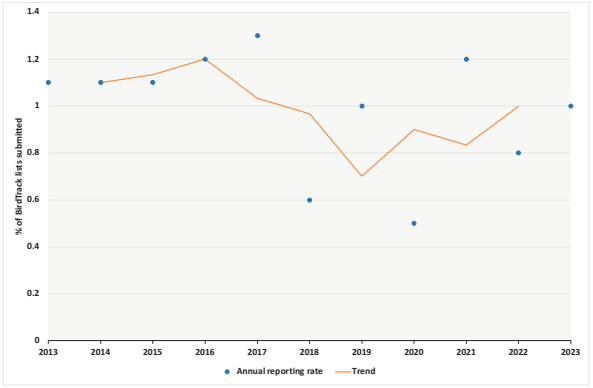
	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	239	322
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The UK index for the Breeding Bird Survey fluctuates, consistent with a species that shows little natal site fidelity, and is currently on an upward phase in its cycle. However, Grasshopper Warbler occurs in too few squares in Wales for a BBS trend to be generated. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales was fairly typical for the last decade.

Singing males in May-July, singles unless stated. GWENT: seven sites; E.GLAMORGAN: eight sites, inc. confirmed breeding at Hirwaun Opencast; GOWER: bred at Oxwich NNR, probably at Hirfynydd and singles at five other sites; CARMARTHEN: two at Llyn Llech Owain CP and Hendy, and singles at six other sites; PEMBROKE: four at Dowrog and Castlemartin Corse, three at Martin's Haven, Plumstone Mountain and

Teifi Marshes, and singles at 18 other sites; CEREDIGION: three in upper Cwm Doethie, two at RSPB Ynys-hir and Cors Caron and one at Aberleri; BRECON: two at Penwyllt and singles at six sites, inc. probable breeding at Llangorse Lake; RADNOR: Llyn Gwyn; MONTGOMERY: 2+ at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy and singles at five other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 sites; CAERNARFON: probably bred at Morfa Aber and Bardsey (only the second breeding record on the island); elsewhere, 11 near Criccieth, two in Nant Ffrancon and Llangwnnadl, and singles at 12 other sites; ANGLESEY: 13 at RSPB Valley Wetlands, 13 at RSPB Cors Ddyga (surveys), two at Silver Bay and Rhoscolyn, and singles at 10 other sites; DENBIGH: probably bred at Esclusham Mountain and Pentrefoelas, singles at five other sites; FLINT: probably bred at Gronant (max. three) and RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, possibly at Higher Shotton; two at Talacre and Wepre, and singles at Gwernymynydd and Queensferry.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Grasshopper Warbler in Wales 2013-23



Spring passage. PEMBROKE: five on Skomer on 18 April; 11 at Dowrog Common on 22 April; CAERNARFON: seven on Bardsey on 22 April.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Grasshopper Warbler	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	7 April	R.Usk at St Julians	1 Aug.	Magor Marsh
E.GLAMORGAN	17 April	Merthyr Mawr & Cardiff	31 Aug.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	15 April	Cors Crymlyn	**30 Sept.**	**Oxwich Marsh**
CARMARTHEN	17 April	Llyn Llech Owain CP & Kidwelly	15 Aug.	Llyn Llech Owain CP
PEMBROKE	7 April	St Davids & Plumstone Mountain	1 Aug.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	18 April	RSPB Ynys-hir & Teifi Marshes	no autumn records	
BRECON	26 April	Cwm Twrch	21 July	Llangasty
RADNOR	16 April	Ysfa	10 Sept.	Llyn Heilyn
MONTGOMERY	21 April	Cors Dyfi	no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	**4 April**	**Llanbedr**	5 July	Bala
CAERNARFON	**4 April**	**Bardsey**	18 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	**4 April**	**RSPB Cors Ddyga**	26 Aug.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	9 April	RSPB Conwy	7 July	Glasfryn
FLINT	17 April	Sealand Ranges	9 Sept.	Rhydymwyn

There were several early records in North Wales, with three on 4 April that included the earliest records this century in MEIRIONNYDD (*cf*. 10 April 2007 and 2018) and ANGLESEY (*cf*. 6 April 2019, 2020 and 2021), and the equal earliest in DENBIGH. The last in RADNOR was the latest in the county this century by four days (*cf*. 2015).

2022 CEREDIGION: 20-32 at Cors Caron.

2020 GWENT, amendment: earliest at Llanwern steelworks on 16 April and latest was ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 23 Aug.; possibly bred at five sites.

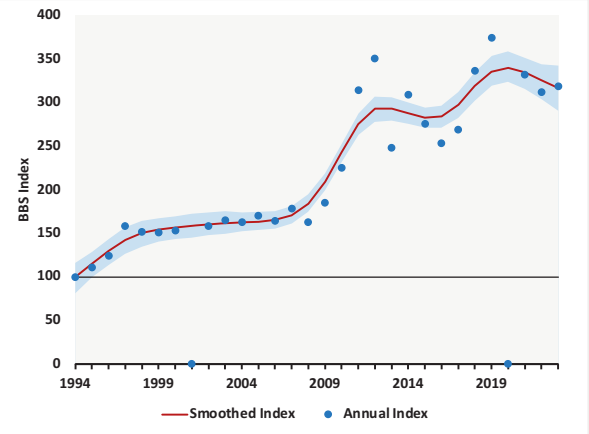
BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* TELOR PENDDU

Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Uncommon but widespread winter visitor (min. 2000 individuals). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	3770	4059
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	17%

The Breeding Bird Survey index was 2% higher than in 2022 and remains 183% above its baseline, despite a slight fall in numbers in recent years. The reduction since 2020 is also apparent in the summer (April-October) BirdTrack reporting rate, whereas the winter rate (November-March) changes very little. The reporting rate in the BTO Garden BirdWatch was 15% in January, the highest rate since the cold snap in January 2011.

Breeding Bird Survey: Blackcap in Wales, 1994-2023

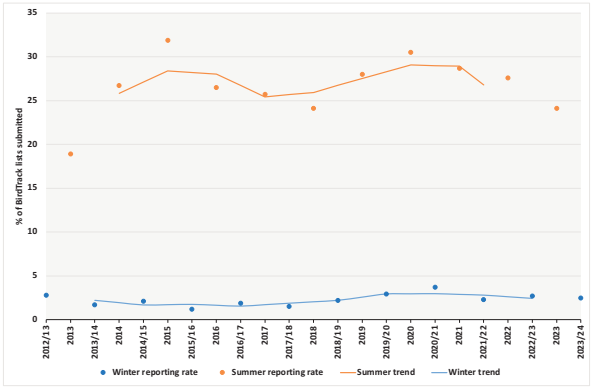


Max. day counts on spring passage. PEMBROKE: 161 on Skomer (island record), 52 on Skokholm and 35 at Martin's Haven on 18 April; 70 on Ramsey on 20 April; 32 on Skokholm on 21 April; CAERNARFON: 70 on Bardsey on 17 April, 87 here on 20th, 134 on 19th and 222 on 21st.

Autumn. GWENT: 26 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 8 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: >10 at Kenfig NNR on 11 dates between 16 Aug. and 30 Sept. (max. 53 on 6th); GOWER: 10 at Baglan and 41 ringed at Oxwich NNR on 30 Sept. (135 ringed here on 8-11 Sept.); 20 at Mewslade on 12 Oct. CARMARTHEN: 12 at Telpyn Pt on 28 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 26 on Skomer on 21 Sept.; 15 at Nine Wells on 1 Oct.; 10 on Skokholm on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: max. 22 on Bardsey on 21 Sept.

2020 GOWER, amendment: records from 10 sites in the second winter period.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Blackcap in Wales 2013-23



Blackcap: winter records	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	8	6	2	4
E.GLAMORGAN	16	13	9	3
GOWER	13	7	3	3
CARMARTHEN	19	2	1	7
PEMBROKE	17	3	9	5
CEREDIGION	3	1		2
BRECON	2	1	2	1
RADNOR	5	3	1	1
MONTGOMERY	1	2	1	3
MEIRIONNYDD		1	1	
CAERNARFON	12	2	7	7
ANGLESEY	2			
DENBIGH	10	6		6
FLINT	10	7	4	3

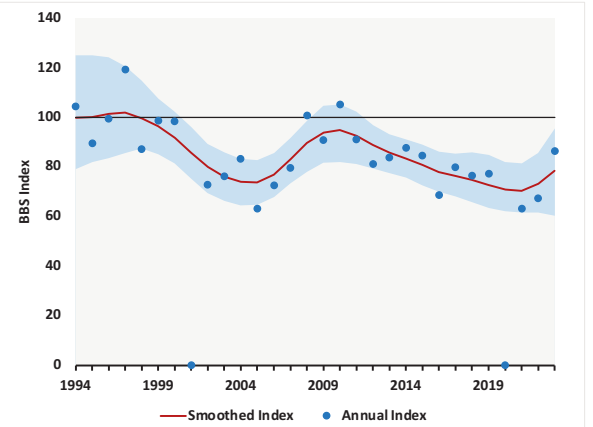
GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* TELOR YR ARDD

Fairly common, widespread summer visitor (39,500 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	372	556
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

A welcome, albeit non-significant, 28% increase in the Breeding Bird Survey index since 2022, although note the wide confidence intervals. Nonetheless, the smoothed trend remains 27% below its 1995 level. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales returned to its typical level following a dip in 2022 that caused the three-year mean to fall, coincidentally, to 27% below that for 2013-15.

Breeding Bird Survey: Garden Warbler in Wales, 1994-2023



Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Garden Warbler	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**15 April**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**	9 Sept.	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	**15 April**	**East Aberthaw**	13 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	21 April	Ynysbwllog	16 Sept.	Oxwich NNR
CARMARTHEN	29 April	RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas	13 Aug.	Kidwelly Quay STW
PEMBROKE	22 April	Cemaes Head	**12 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	26 April	Plas Gogerddan	23 Aug.	Llanrhystud
BRECON	25 April	Llangynidr	24 July	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	22 April	Boughrood	25 Sept.	Michaelchurch
MONTGOMERY	26 April	Middletown Hill	13 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	1 May	Ceiriog Forest	7 July	Cors-y-sarnau
CAERNARFON	26 April	Gloddaeth	9 Oct.	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	27 April	Cefni Reservoir	**12 Oct.**	**Porth Eilian**
DENBIGH	26 April	Fenn's Moss	25 July	Fenn's Moss
FLINT	29 April	Maes Mynan Park	no autumn records	

Notable territory counts. GWENT: eight at Llanfihangel Gobion and Penallt; five at Wentwood and Monmouth rowing club; E.GLAMORGAN: eight at Kenfig NNR on 3 Aug. may have included passage migrants; seven at Allt y Rhiw; five at Mynydd Meio; GOWER: five at Coed Cwm Cynffig; CARMARTHEN: eight at Allt Rhyd-y-groes; five at RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas; CEREDIGION: 17 at Long Wood-Betws Bledrws; 13 in Tywi Forest above Strata Florida; seven in 129ha at RSPB Ynys-hir; five at Coed Nant-yr-arian; RADNOR: seven at Gilfach; FLINT: nine below Penycloddiau; eight on a farm at Afonwen.

BARRED WARBLER *Curruca nisoria* TELOR RHESOG

Scarce migrant from eastern Europe. WBRC: 116 previous records.

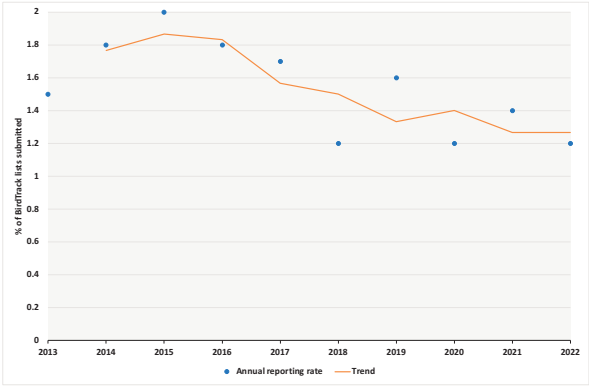
ANGLESEY: 1CY at Holyhead Mountain on 12 Oct. and a different 1CY here on 19-22nd.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Curruca curruca* LLWYDFRON FACH

Fairly common, but patchily distributed, summer visitor (6950 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	305	341
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Lesser Whitethroat in Wales 2013-23



The breeding trend for Lesser Whitethroat in Wales remains uncertain because of low sample size in the Breeding Bird Survey. The UK index dropped for the third consecutive year, although remains (for now) above its low point in the late 1990s. The three-year mean BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales is 28% lower than in 2013-15 and several bird reports referred to numbers being lower than usual.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Lesser Whitethroat	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	17 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve	17 Sept.	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	**16 April**	**Sker Point**	22 Sept.	Sker Point
GOWER	22 April	Loughor Bridge	26 Sept.	West Cliff
CARMARTHEN	29 April	Ragwen Pt	28 Aug.	Telpyn Point
PEMBROKE	23 April	Fishguard Bay	**15 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	26 April	Aberporth	6 Aug.	Teifi Marshes
RADNOR	22 April	Cwmbach Llechrhyd	10 Sept.	Llowes
MONTGOMERY	17 May	Middletown	26 July	Dolydd Hafren
CAERNARFON	19 April	Bardsey	29 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	25 April	Rhoscolyn & RSPB Cors Ddyga	23 Sept.	Amlwch STW
DENBIGH	18 April	RSPB Conwy	29 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	27 April	Brickfield Pond NR	28 Sept.	Rhyl Marsh Tracks

The last of the year in FLINT was nine days later than the previous latest in the county this century, in 2015.

2020 GWENT, amendment: earliest record was at Redwick on 16 April.

***C.c. blythi* (Siberian Lesser Whitethroat/Llwydfron Fach Siberia)**

Very rare vagrant from Siberia, which winters in Central Asia. WBRC: eight records, including the two listed here.

Most Lesser Whitethroats reported in Britain (and elsewhere in northwest Europe) between October and March are likely to be of Siberian origin (Collinson *et al*. 2022), but currently only those confirmed by mtDNA are accepted as *C.c. blythi.* CEREDIGION: Llechryd from 29 Dec. 2022 to 11 Jan.

2016 CAERNARFON: ringed on Bardsey on 28 Oct.

WESTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Curruca iberiae* TELOR BRONGOCH Y GORLLEWIN

Very rare migrant from western Mediterranean. BBRC: six previous records.

PEMBROKE: 2CY male, ringed on Skokholm on 24 June. Identification confirmed by mtDNA.

EASTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Curruca cantillans* TELOR BRONGOCH DWYRAIN

Rare migrant from southeast Europe. BBRC: 20 previous records.

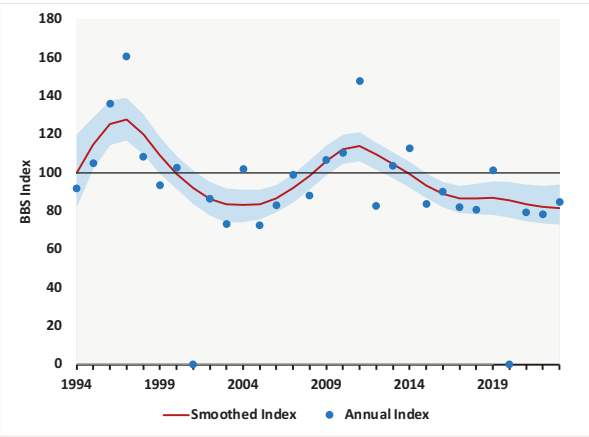
CAERNARFON: 2CY male ringed on Bardsey on 30 May.

WHITETHROAT *Curruca communis* LLWYDFRON

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (79,500 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1959	2283
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	10%

Breeding Bird Survey: Whitethroat in Wales, 1994-2023



The slide in breeding numbers shows no sign of abating. The Breeding Bird Survey index fell to another record low, down by 25% in just 10 years and 28% lower in 2022 than in 1995. This is in stark contrast to the values for England and Scotland, where numbers have increased by 15% and 121%. The BirdTrack reporting rate was higher than the previous year, but the recent average is 25% below that in 2013-15.

Notable counts on spring passage. GWENT: 19 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 26 April and 35 here on 30th; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Sker Pt on 7 May; GOWER: 10 at Rhossili on 4 May; PEMBROKE: 26 on Skokholm on 27 April, the highest island count in spring since 2002; 21 on Marloes peninsula on 2 May.

Notable count on autumn passage. E.GLAMORGAN: 38 at Kenfig NNR on 26 July, 31 here on 3 Aug., 22 on 16th, 19 on 25th and 14 on 31st; PEMBROKE: 10 on Skokholm on 23 Aug.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Whitethroat	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	9 April	Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth)	13 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve & Osbaston
E.GLAMORGAN	**1 April**	**Bute East Dock**	**28 Sept.**	**Nash Point**
GOWER	16 April	Margam Moors	21 Sept.	Port Eynon Point
CARMARTHEN	14 April	Ashburnham GC, Burry Port	13 Sept.	Banc y Lord
PEMBROKE	7 April	Lydstep	22 Sept.	St Govan's Head
CEREDIGION	17 April	Cors Caron	**28 Sept.**	**Aberaeron**
BRECON	26 April	Llangasty	21 July	Llangasty
RADNOR	22 April	Cwmbach	14 Sept.	Llowes
MONTGOMERY	26 April	Middletown Hill	1 Sept.	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	19 April	Harlech	26 Aug.	Croesor Bach
CAERNARFON	16 April	Rhiwddolion	25 Sept.	Porthor
ANGLESEY	18 April	Rhoscolyn	17 Sept.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	15 April	Erddig	6 Sept.	Fenn's Moss
FLINT	19 April	Shotwick Lake & Point of Ayr	15 Sept.	Rhydymwyn

2020 GWENT, amendment: earliest was at Dingestow and near Pen-y-lan on 12 April; correction: latest was on 12 April.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Curruca undata* TELOR DARTFORD

Rare breeder, mainly in south and west Wales. RBBP: 28 pairs in 2022. Occasional elsewhere, usually in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	41	53
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

There were few records from Pembrokeshire, but a greater number in the southeast and evidence that a single pair hangs on in North Wales. GWENT: Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff) on 2-19 Feb. and reported on 24th; E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Rest Bay on 2 March, Ogmore Down on 7 and 14 March, and 4 April, at Dunraven on 1 Oct. and Nash Pt on 23rd; GOWER: five pairs at four sites; CARMARTHEN: one at a site in the west of the county during Feb. to Sept.; PEMBROKE: Plumstone Mountain on 19 Jan.; Penbwchdy on 1 May; two at Pen Anglas on 21 July; Skokholm on 6 Sept.; Garn Fawr on 11 Nov.; CAERNARFON: pair at a breeding site on Pen Llŷn on 4 March and three here on 19th.

2020 GWENT: R.Usk, Newport, on 30 Dec.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Scarce breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

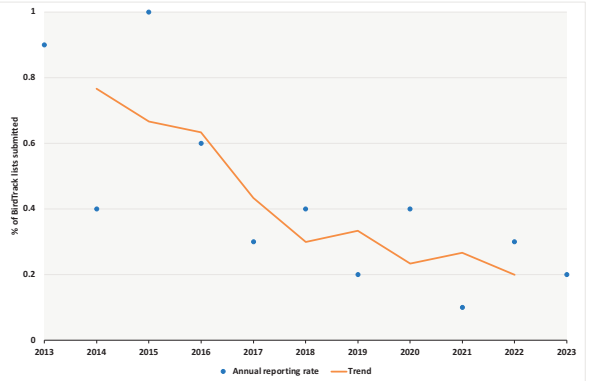
	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	226	146
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

There were 27 singles or pairs during the breeding season, even without complete reporting from the strongholds in Gwent and Eastern Glamorgan, and some evidence of a spread north and west. This may well be an extension of increased numbers in England, where the BBS index is up 140% in 10 years.

Breeding season. GWENT: singing male at 350m in the Black Mountains on 7 April; pair in Creigiau Wood on 19 April; two singing at Craig Syfyrddin on 1 May; two singing at Beacon Hill in May; singles at five other sites in May/June; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 territorial pairs in woodland north of Cardiff; singing male at a site

near Caerphilly on 16 May; CEREDIGION: singing at Devil's Bridge and Cross Inn; BRECON: probable pair above Talgarth on 1 May; RADNOR: singing males at three sites; MONTGOMERY: Llyn Clywedog on 9 July; Dyfnant Forest on 9 Sept.; DENBIGH: male in Ceiriog Forest, with a second heard nearby, on 1 May.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Firecrest in Wales 2013-23



In contrast to increased breeding numbers, the BirdTrack reporting rate, which comprises mostly non-breeding birds, has fallen 73% since 2013-15. Little is known about the origin of our wintering Firecrests, or whether our small breeding population moves elsewhere. Bird-ringing suggests at least some come from countries bordering the southern shore of the Baltic Sea, arriving via a short sea crossing from Belgium and The Netherlands.

Firecrest: non-breeding totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT			3			1	1	1
E.GLAMORGAN	1	3	2		3	7	8	3
GOWER	2	2	1	1		4	11	1
CARMARTHEN	2	2	3			3		
PEMBROKE	9	4	4		3	9	6	5
CEREDIGION	1	1	1	2		2	2	3
MONTGOMERY				1				
MEIRIONNYDD		2		1				3
CAERNARFON	6	3	4		13	14	6	2
ANGLESEY	6	5	1			3	2	3
DENBIGH	1	1				1		
FLINT					1	1	1	

Ringing. GOWER: one caught at Langland on 24 Oct. had been ringed here on 28 Oct. 2022; PEMBROKE: one caught at Teifi Marshes on 12 Dec. had been ringed here in Feb., the first proof of a Firecrest returning to the site in a successive winter.

2020 GWENT, amendment: estimated 25 territories at nine sites; additional non-breeding singles in March, Oct. and Nov.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* DRYW EURBEN

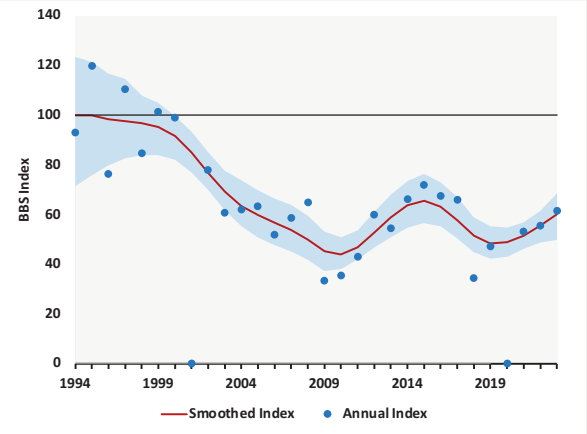
Fairly common resident (85,500 territories), abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	3186	3710
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	16%

The fourth consecutive increase in the annual Breeding Bird Survey index has pulled the long-term decline below the qualification threshold for Red-listing in Wales. It remains 44% below its 1995 level. The BirdTrack reporting rate, which includes non-breeding birds, also showed an increase to reach its highest value since 2016, but still 18% below the 2013-15 mean. The reporting rate in the BTO Garden BirdWatch was typical of recent years, peaking at 6% of participating gardens in February.

Counts ≥20. CARMARTHEN: 20 at Cwm Rhaeadr on 30 April; PEMBROKE: 38 at Pwll Deri on 26 March; 53 on Skokholm on 12 Oct. and 26 here on 13th; 34 on Skomer on 22 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 174 on Bardsey on 26 March, 286 here on 27th, 41 on 1 April, 46 on 21 Sept. and 170 on 12 Oct.; 25 on Great Orme on 12 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 20 at RSPB South Stack on 21 Sept., 25 here on 23rd, 28 on 24th, 26 on 25th, 22 on 1 Oct., 38 on 2nd and 22 on 15th.

Breeding Bird Survey: Goldcrest in Wales, 1994-2023

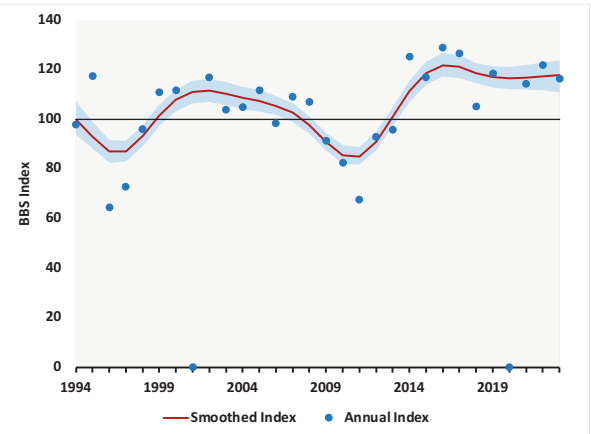


WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* DRYW

Abundant resident up to c.900 metres, and most ubiquitous bird species in Wales (1.3 million territories). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	10250	10974
% of BirdTrack lists	50%	51%

Breeding Bird Survey: Wren in Wales, 1994-2023



The population of Wales' most abundant species has held steady since 2014, after recovering from two harsh winters at the start of the last decade. It suggests that there is relatively little unoccupied suitable habitat. The Breeding Bird Survey showed a 26% increase during 1995-2022, while the reporting rate in gardens has been stable for the last decade. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest since 2017, the year before severe cold in late winter caused a marked drop in 2018. The only sites with comparable breeding counts were: Skomer, PEMBROKE, which recorded 81 territories (*cf*. 94 in 2022), 3% below the five-year average; Ramsey, PEMBROKE, where 48 pairs was slightly above the 2007-22 average; and Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where 136 singing males were recorded, 15% fewer than in 2022 but 135% above the 1953-2023 average.

Wren: daily maxima		*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
PEMBROKE	Skokholm	42	50	54	37	38	35	40	48	31	21
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	29	55	48	60	21	23	34	51		

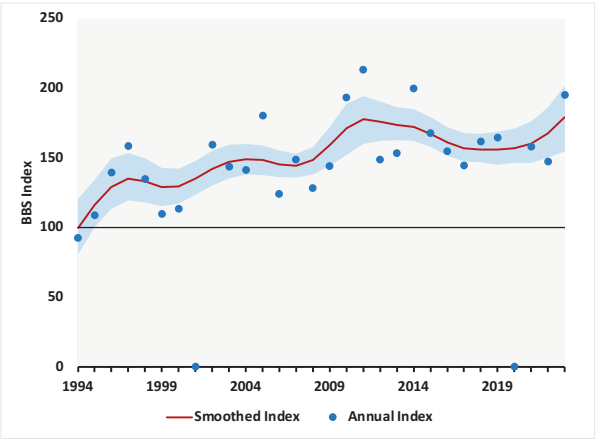
Other notable counts. PEMBROKE: 39 on Skomer on 2 June and 21 here on 16 Aug.; DENBIGH: 45 in Ceiriog Forest on 1 May; FLINT: 50 at Pt of Ayr on 25 Dec.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* DELOR CNAU

Fairly common and widely distributed resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland (60,000 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	3100	3420
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

Breeding Bird Survey: Nuthatch in Wales, 1994-2023



An upswing in the species' fortunes is evident from the Breeding Bird Survey. The smoothed index reached a record high as a result of a 33% increase on the 2022 value, bringing the smoothed trend to 44% above the 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been remarkably consistent for much of the last decade, whereas numbers recorded by BTO Garden BirdWatch participants were the lowest ever in July and even the month with the highest reporting rate (November) was the lowest annual peak since 2014.

Breeding surveys. GOWER: 43 young fledged from eight pairs at Cwm Clydach (5.4).

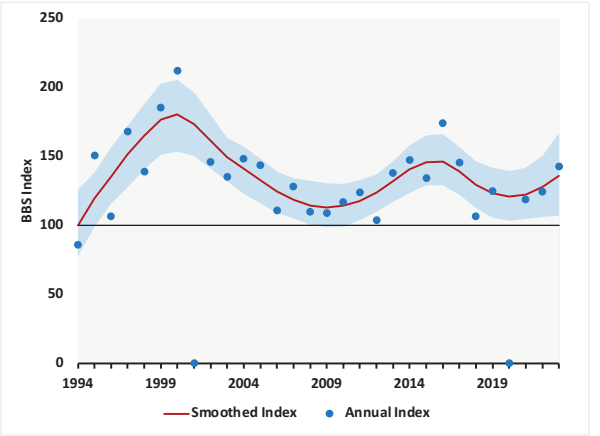
Notable. CAERNARFON: one in the relatively treeless Ogwen Valley, at *c*.350m asl, on 27 May; ANGLESEY: 11 on Church Island on 17 Oct.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* DRINGWR BACH

Fairly common and widespread resident (37,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1177	1419
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

Breeding Bird Survey: Treecreeper in Wales, 1994-2023



Treecreeper is in the upward phase of its population cycle, the Breeding Bird Survey index being 15% higher than the previous year, and the long-term trend being 7% above the 1995 baseline, although still 25% below its value at the turn of the century. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest on record.

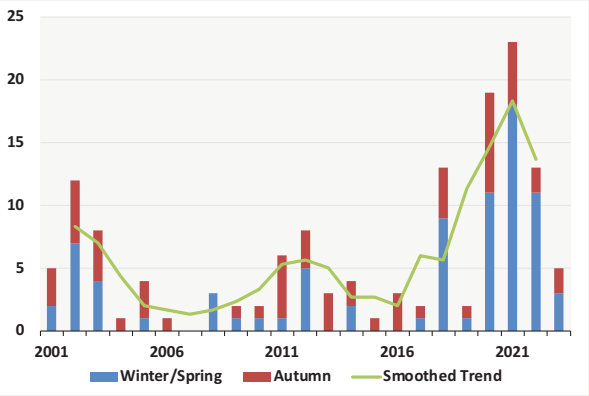
Notable. CAERNARFON: one on the lower slopes of the Glyderau, with relatively few trees (>350m asl) on 17 June (*cf*. a Nuthatch record in the same valley in May); one at Porthdinllaen on 17 July was an unusual location, and perhaps a dispersing juvenile.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Pastor roseus* DRUDWEN WRIDOG

Uncommon migrant from southeast Europe, prone to irruptions in some years.

Ironically, the year after records of this species ceased to be considered by the WBRC, the total for the year (including one in December 2022) was below the average for the previous two decades. E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY/2CY at Cefn Glas, Bridgend, from 9 Dec. 2022 to 11 Feb.; adult at Litchard, Bridgend, on 31 May; PEMBROKE: adult at Harmony, Strumble Head, on 26 May; 1CY at Haverfordwest on 18 Oct.; 1CY at Trefin on 18-23 Oct.

Rose-coloured Starling: all records, 2001-23



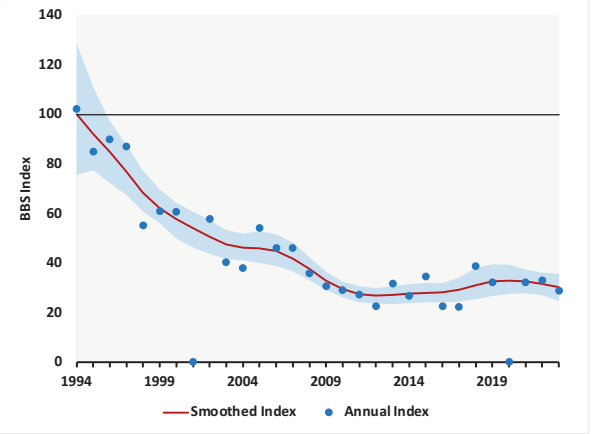
Starlings (Linda Yeardley-Williams)

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* DRUDWEN

Fairly common resident (90,000 breeding pairs). Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor from eastern Europe. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	6077	6364
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	28%

Breeding Bird Survey: Starling in Wales, 1994-2023



Although the status of the breeding population has not deteriorated further in the last decade or so, it shows little sign of recovery even to its size at the start of the century. The Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index is 66% below its 1995 level.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate has remained very consistent, between 25% and 29% of lists submitted since 2013. Starling visits to Welsh gardens generally peak in mid-winter, according to the BTO Garden BirdWatch, but the reporting rate has fallen from an average 62% in 1995/96-2000/01 to 48% of gardens in 2019/20-2023/24 and the annual post-breeding trough in numbers was the lowest ever in August 2023 with Starlings reported in <16% of gardens.

Large winter flocks/roosts >1000 in first winter period. GWENT: up to 130,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve in Jan.; 3000 at Meres Reen on 4 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 5245 roosted at Teifi Marshes on 1 Jan.; 5000 at Slebech on 2 Jan.; CEREDIGION: estimates at Aberystwyth Pier ranged from 20,000 to 50,000 in Feb.; BRECON: 15,000 at Llangorse Lake on 6 Jan.; RADNOR: 1500 at Llyn Heilyn on 3 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 2500 in Cwm Maen Gwynedd on 17 Jan.; ANGLESEY: up to 250,000 roosted at Llyn Bodgylched in Jan.; daytime counts inc. 2000 at Aberffraw on 4 Jan., 1000 at Cefni Marshes on 6 Jan., 10,000 at Cors Erddreiniog on 8 Jan., 20,000 at Llangefni lagoons on 27 Jan., 5000 at Llanddyfnan on 27 Jan. and 25,000 here on 9 Feb., and 20,000 over Cors Bodeilio on 21 Feb.; FLINT: 2000 at Shotton railway bridge on 3 Jan.; 1000 at Bretton on 4 Jan.; 1500 at Connah's Quay NR on 14 Jan.; 4000 from roost at Gronant on 24 Jan.; 2000 at Cwm Dyserth on 22 Feb.; 1000 at Rhuddlan on 16 March.

>1000 in the second winter period. GWENT: up to 100,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve in Nov., increasing to 150,000 by 17-21 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1000 at Parc Penallta on 2 Dec.; GOWER: 1500 at Wernffrwd on 27 Oct.; 2500 at Weobley on 28 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: several thousand over Pembrey Forest on 19 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 3000 roosted at Teifi Marshes on 16 Oct.; 7500 at Trehill on 29 Oct.; 1510 at Sprinkle Pill on 17 Dec.; *c.*10,000 at Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest, on 29 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 1500 at Llanon on 28 Oct.; 2000 over Aberystwyth Constitution Hill on 11 Nov.; BRECON: max. 80,000 roosted at Llangorse Lake on 14 Dec.; 1000 at Llywel in late Dec.; RADNOR: up to 260,000 roosted at Llandegley in Dec.; MONTGOMERY: >1000 near Dolfor on 14 Nov. and 11 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1000 over Corwen on 23 Nov.; CAERNARFON: >4000 west along Traeth Lafan in two hours on 14 Nov. and 7800 here on 17th; 10,000 over Criccieth on 21 Oct.; 6000 passed Penychain on 30 Oct.; 5000 roosted at Pwllheli on 28 Nov.; 1400 over Dolgarrog on 19 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 1460 at RSPB South Stack on 22 Oct.; 100,000 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 31 Oct. and 5 Nov., increasing to 200,000 on 10th and still 180,000 here on 1 Dec.

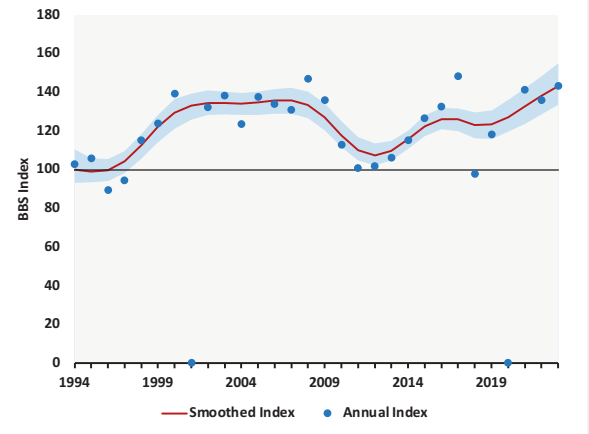
2020 GWENT, amendments: 7000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 4 Jan., 60,000 here on 4 Nov., 125,000 on 19th and 175,000 on 11 Dec.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* BRONFRAITH

Fairly common and widespread resident (160,000 breeding territories), winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	5609	5874
% of BirdTrack lists	26%	26%

Breeding Bird Survey: Song Thrush in Wales, 1994-2023



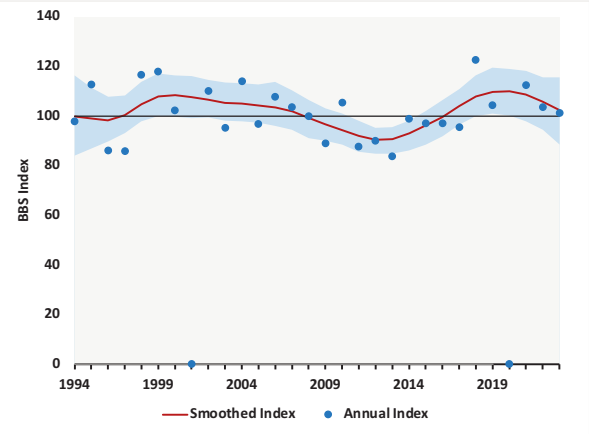
The Breeding Bird Survey smoothed trend reached a record high for the second consecutive year and, by 2022, was 39% above its 1995 baseline in Wales. The positive trend is greater than in either England or Scotland. By contrast, the reporting rate in the BTO Garden BirdWatch has fallen over the long-term while the BirdTrack reporting rate has not changed dramatically over the last 10 years. Unusually, there was only one count ≥30, in GOWER: 30 at Mewslade on 12 and 17 Oct.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* BRYCH COED

Fairly common resident (26,000 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2931	2907
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	13%

Breeding Bird Survey: Mistle Thrush in Wales, 1994-2023



Despite another fall in the annual Breeding Bird Survey index, the Mistle Thrush trend remains just in the black, 7% above its 1995 value. Over the same period, the reporting rate in gardens monitored by the BTO Garden BirdWatch has fallen: the spring peak was the lowest ever and the mid-winter peak was the lowest since 2012. Similar to Song Thrush, the BirdTrack reporting rate has been slightly lower over the last couple of years, but the three-year mean is very similar to 2013-15.

Flocks ≥20. E.GLAMORGAN: 44 at Perthcelyn rifle range on 23 July; 21 at Nant y Moel on 23 Aug. and Llwyn-onn forestry on 27th; 20 at Lavernock Pt on 21 Oct.; GOWER: >20 at Rhossili/Pitton on 20 July; 21 at Crynant on 2 Aug.; 35 at Baglan Energy Park on 26 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 30 at Trawsnant on 30 July; CEREDIGION: 40 in Cwm Einion on 1 Aug.; 30 at Ystumtuen on 15 Sept.; BRECON: 33 fed on bilberries at Blaenbrynich on 2 July; 30 at Trawsnant on 30 July; 25 at Llanfrynach in Aug.; 21 in Nant-ddu on 27 Aug.; RADNOR: 30 at Rhogo on 5 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 20 on Moel Faban on 10 June; >30 on Pen-y-gadair on 11 Aug.; 30 above Waunfawr on 3 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Moel-y-don on 2 Oct.; FLINT: 21 at Hawarden on 8 Sept.

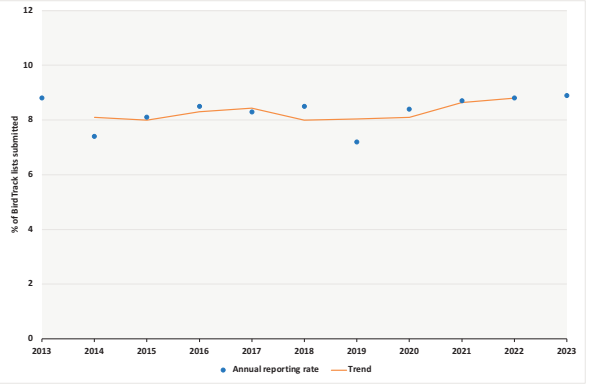
2020 GWENT, additional records: 20 at Ysgyryd Fach on 30 July; 20 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 19 Aug.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* COCH DAN ADAIN

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2117	2090
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Redwing in Wales 2013-23



Although there was not the huge October influx evident in 2022, greater numbers arrived in late November and early December, including the largest count of the year in Breconshire. Numbers and reporting rate in BTO Garden BirdWatch locations returned to normal in both winter periods following high values in autumn 2022. The threshold for autumn counts included below has nonetheless increased from 120 to 200, to reflect the greater numbers of the species that occur in that season.

Latest and earliest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Redwing	*Latest*	*Site*	*Earliest*	*Site*
GWENT	29 March	Llanfihangel Gobion	9 Oct.	Three locations
E.GLAMORGAN	29 March	Blackmill	9 Oct.	Three locations
GOWER	20 March	Morriston	28 Sept.	Baglan
CARMARTHEN	20 April	RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas	10 Oct.	Salem & Mynydd Llangyndeyrn
PEMBROKE	1 April	Skokholm	3 Oct.	Llys-y-fran Reservoir
CEREDIGION	2 April	Llangeitho	9 Oct.	Clarach & Llanafan
BRECON	26 March	Llangorse Lake	9 Oct.	Storey Arms & Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	19 April	Evenjobb	7 Oct.	Five locations
MONTGOMERY	4 April	Mathafarn	9 Oct.	Guilsfield
MEIRIONNYDD	2 April	Pennal	10 Oct.	Lower Tryweryn
CAERNARFON	**30 May**	**Bardsey**	8 Oct.	Bangor & Morfa Conwy
ANGLESEY	6 April	Penymynydd	**7 Aug.**	**RSPB South Stack**
DENBIGH	9 May	Lleweni watermeadows	10 Oct.	RSPB Conwy & Wrexham
FLINT	5 April	Connah's Quay NR	16 Sept.	Maes-mynan & Connah's Quay NR

Counts ≥120 in the first winter period. CARMARTHEN: >350 northwest over Pembrey CP on 11 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Sarnau on 11 March; MONTGOMERY: 120 at Clatter on 8 March; ANGLESEY: *c.*150 roosted at Hirdre-faig on 6 Jan.; 200 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 Feb.; 500 at Braint est. on 5 Feb.; DENBIGH: 400 at Bettisfield on 17 Jan.; up to 148 at Lleweni watermeadows in Jan. and 160 in March; FLINT: 120 at Caerwys on 15 Feb.

Counts ≥200 in the second winter period. GWENT: >200 at Croesyceiliog on 9 Oct.; 200 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 25 Nov. and 1 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1222 through Kenfig NNR in four hours and 150 at Lavernock Pt on 9 Oct.; 2052 at Lavernock Pt in 4.5 hours on 10 Oct.; 214 at Kenfig NNR on 29 Nov. and 212 here on 13 Dec.; 250 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 3 Dec.; GOWER: several flocks >300 at Lliw Res. on 10 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Carew on 19 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 794 over Aberystwyth in one

hour on 10 Oct.; BRECON: 6500 roosted at Llaneglwys Wood on 15 Nov.; RADNOR: 1600 at New Radnor on 24 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 205 at Bangor Mountain on 17 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 200 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 31 Oct.; FLINT: >400 south over RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 22 Oct.

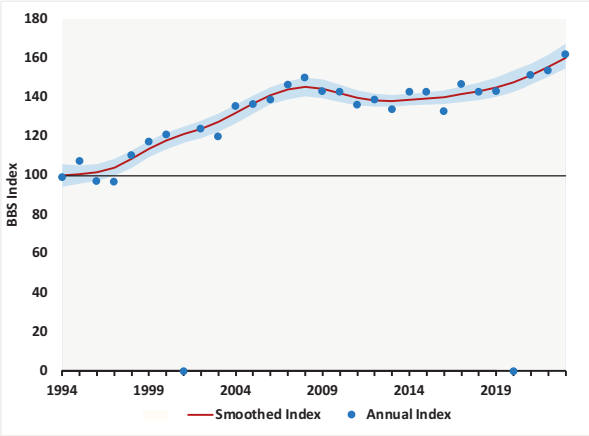
2020 GWENT: 200 at Peterstone Gout on 18 Jan.; 120 in St James Forestry on 27 Jan.; 150 at Cefn Ila and at Llanbadoc on 13 Oct.; >120 at Hafod Farm on 15 Oct.; 160 at Pen-y-glog on 6 Nov.; *c.*150 near Llandewi Court on 26 Nov.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* MWYALCHEN

Abundant breeding resident (665,000 pairs), passage migrant and winter visitor from northeast Europe. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	13776	14630
% of BirdTrack lists	66%	65%

Breeding Bird Survey: Blackbird in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hit another new high, 54% above its 1995 baseline, whereas the smoothed index in England has been declining since 2008 and more rapidly since 2018. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been lower since the pandemic years, causing it to remain below Carrion Crow as the most frequently recorded species on lists, but the average of recent years is little different to 2013-15. The peak recording rate in the BTO Garden BirdWatch was its lowest, 94%, since records began in 1999, except for 2020.

Counts ≥30 in winter and on passage. E.GLAMORGAN: 33 at Parc Aberdare on 18 Jan.; 30 near Blackmill on 29 March; 31 at Cwmbach Wetlands on 25 Nov.; 56 on a farm survey near Dyffryn on 2 Dec.; 31 at Abercanaid on 3 Dec.; GOWER: 40 at Mewslade on 17 Oct.; PEMBROKE: >50 at Norchard on 16 Jan.; >50 at Druidston on 17 Jan.; 42 at Cashfield on 29 Jan.; 34 on Skokholm on 12 Nov.; >30 at Carew on 17 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 31 in Corris on 2 Dec.; 30 at Pennal on 11 Dec.; CAERNARFON: >50 on Great Orme on 23 Oct.; FLINT: 32 at Brickfield Pond NR on 18-20 Jan.; 37 at Broughton on 2 Dec.

2020 GWENT: 32 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 6 Dec.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* SOCAN EIRA

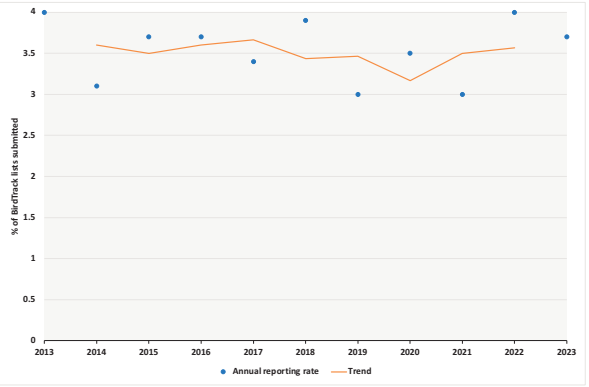
Winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe in variable numbers; often abundant. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1024	1008
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

The BirdTrack reporting rate for the first winter period was below average, while in the second winter period Fieldfares were slow to arrive during October and peaked only at the start of December. The largest count of the year, in Breconshire in mid-November, was

one of the largest ever Welsh counts. The threshold for autumn counts included below has increased from 120 to 200.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Fieldfare in Wales 2013-23



Latest and earliest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Fieldfare	*Latest*	*Site*	*Earliest*	*Site*
GWENT	29 March	Llanfihangel Gobion	7 Oct.	Usk
E.GLAMORGAN	21 April	Ogmore estuary	5 Oct.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	2 April	Fairwood Lodge	17 Oct.	Mewslade & Upper Lliw Res.
CARMARTHEN	17 April	Llyn Llech Owain CP	10 Oct.	Pâl y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	14 April	Skokholm	12 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	16 April	RSPB Ynys-hir	9 Oct.	Pumlumon
BRECON	26 April	Cwm Twrch	**1 Oct.**	**Llysdinam**
RADNOR	20 April	Cwmclyd	7 Oct.	Llyn Heilyn
MONTGOMERY	9 April	Near Arddleen	12 Oct.	Old Hall, near Llanidloes
MEIRIONNYDD	22 April	Ratgoed	18 Oct.	Llyn Oerfel
CAERNARFON	**28 April**	**Bardsey**	9 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	27 April	RSPB South Stack	17 Oct.	Three locations
DENBIGH	1 April	Erddig	23 Oct.	Lleweni watermeadows
FLINT	9 April	Moel y Parc	8 Oct.	Moel Arthur

Counts ≥120 in the first winter period. GWENT: >120 at Nash on 7 Jan.; >250 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 14 Jan. and 150 here on 12 March; 600 at Llanllowel on 14 Jan. and 19 Feb.; >200 at Llandegfedd Res. on 22 Jan.; 150 near Llangybi on 26 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: >200 at Nant Hafod, Porth, on 4 Feb.; PEMBROKE: *c.*125 at Treffynnon on 19 Feb.; BRECON: 160 at Llangorse Common on 10 Mar.; RADNOR: 150 at Glasbury on 22 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 150 at Beacon Ring hillfort on 9 Feb. and 300 here on 26 Feb.; ANGLESEY: *c.*150 at Llangefni Ind. Est. on 27 Jan.; 300 at Aberffraw on 25 Feb.; DENBIGH: 120 at Pentre-llyn-cymmer on 21 Feb.

≥200 in the second winter period. GWENT: >500 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 25 Nov. and 1 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 247 at Kenfig NNR on 11 Nov.; 250 at Cwm-y-gaer on 15 Nov.; >200 at Rhymney on 23 Nov.; 493 on a farm survey near Dyffryn on 2 Dec.; 250 at Cwm Cadlan on 29 Dec.; RADNOR: >200 in Elan Valley on 12 Oct.; >300 at Ciloerwynt on 24 Oct.; >250 at Llyn Heilyn on 28 Oct.; BRECON: *c.*200 at Aberyscir Common on 23 Oct.; 200 at Carnau on 29 Oct.; an estimated 10,000 (with 6500 Redwing) roosted at Llaneglwys Wood on 15 Nov.; 280 near Tirabad on 23 Dec.; RADNOR: 800 in Elan Valley on 24 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 200 over Garreg Du on 21 Oct.; >200 at Yr Allt, Mochdre on 18 Nov.; >300 at Allt y Moch, Llandinam, on 14 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 200 at Llanbedrgoch on 17 Oct.; >300 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 22-23 Oct. and 7 Nov.; DENBIGH: 200 at Llyn Brenig on 20 Dec.; FLINT: 230 at Moel Arthur on 8 Oct.; >250 south over RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 22 Oct.

2020 GWENT: 200 at Peterstone Gout on 18 Jan.; 120 in St James Forestry on 27 Jan.; 300 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Nov.; correction: last of spring was at Llangibby on 17 April and first of autumn was at Lower Machen on 8 Sept.

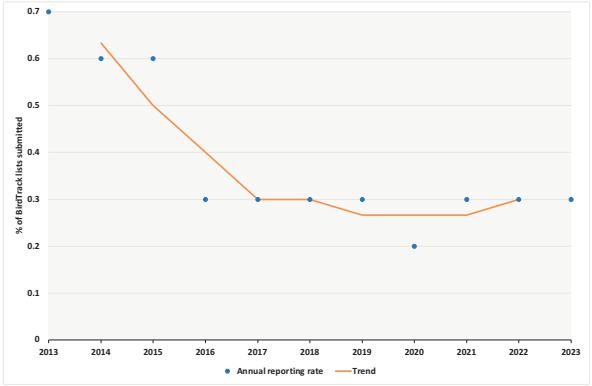
Ring Ouzel (Karen Burns)

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Uncommon and declining summer visitor to the uplands (444-457 breeding pairs) and passage migrant on coast. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	186	173
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Ring Ouzel in Wales 2013-23



There is no Breeding Bird Survey trend for Wales and no longer sufficient data to produce a UK index over the long-term. The medium-term (2012-22) BBS index for the UK shows no strong trend. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales has more than halved since 2013-15 but has been fairly consistent since 2016. There was notable spring passage through Pembrokeshire and northwest Wales in mid-April and good numbers through Mid Wales in mid-October. For the third consecutive winter, one appears to have overwintered in BRECON, at Cwm Gwdi, Libanus, on 17 January.

Single breeding territory/singing male unless stated. CARMARTHEN: Carregydwfn on 22 April; BRECON: bred at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad, possibly double-brooded; also at Bwlch y Duwynt, Cathedine and Nantystalwyn; RADNOR: recorded at three sites; MEIRIONNYDD: bred on Mynydd Moel and Penygadair, probably on Arenig Fawr and possibly on Cnicht, Moelwyn Mawr, Moelwyn Bach and Craig Nyth Gigfran; CAERNARFON: bred in Nant Ffrancon, probably at Yr Wyddfa, Dinorwic Quarry and Cwmystradllyn, and present at 12 other sites in Eryri during May/June.

The decline in numbers passing through Wales has led to the threshold for inclusion being reduced from ≥10 to ≥5 birds. CARMARTHEN: five at Pâl y Cwrt on 21 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 15 on Skomer on 18 April and six here on 21st; up to eight at Rosebush Quarry on 24-30 Oct.; CEREDIGION: seven in Cwm Berwyn on 18 Oct.; RADNOR: five at Caban Coch quarry on 15-16 Oct. and max. 12 here on 29th; CAERNARFON: five on Great Orme on 19 April and seven here on 22nd; five on Bardsey on 20 April.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

Ring Ouzel	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	25 April	Pwll Du	25 Oct.	Pontypool
E.GLAMORGAN	20 April	Cwmparc	28 Oct.	Darren Fach quarry, Taf Fawr valley
GOWER	7 May	Weobley Castle	17 Oct.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	18 March	Llyn Brianne	21 Oct.	Pâl y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	3 April	Martin's Haven	31 Oct.	Marloes
CEREDIGION	**11 Feb.**	**New Quay Head**	27 Oct.	Cwm Berwyn & Nant-y-moch
BRECON	2 April	Fan Frynych & Nant Honddu	16 Nov.	Builth Wells
RADNOR	22 March	Penygarreg Res. & Radnor Forest	9 Nov.	Elan Valley
MONTGOMERY	28 March	Garreg Ddu	21 Oct.	Llanrhaeadr
MEIRIONNYDD	7 April	Cadair Idris	17 Sept.	Llanfrothen
CAERNARFON	22 March	Great Orme	25 Oct.	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	31 March	RSPB South Stack	**22 Nov.**	**RSPB Valley Wetlands**
DENBIGH	10 April	Minera	12 Nov.	Bryn-y-maen
FLINT	2 April	Penycloddiau	no autumn records	

The first in CARMARTHEN was four days ahead of the previous earliest in the county this century, in 2000, while the first in CEREDIGION was the earliest ever migrant in Wales (*cf*. 13 Feb 1996 on Carmel Head, Anglesey). The last on ANGLESEY, and anywhere in Wales in 2023, was the latest on the island this century by 10 days (*cf*. 12 Nov. 2022).

2020 GWENT: earliest and latest were both on Blorenge, on 24 March and 4 Nov.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Uncommon and declining summer visitor (5700 breeding territories). Locally common passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

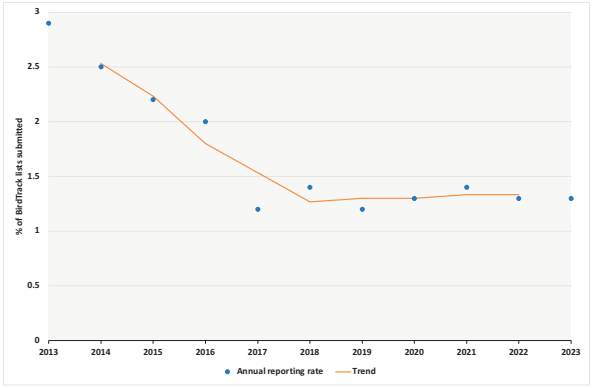
	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	372	394
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The UK Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index has fallen by 68% during 1995-2022, but Spotted Flycatchers occur on too few survey squares in Wales to produce a trend here. The BirdTrack reporting rate fell sharply during 2013-17, but has since been more consistent at 47% below the baseline. The BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate is low, and this year's was the fourth lowest ever.

Breeding. GWENT: bred at Grosmont and Llangybi, probably at Llantilio Pertholey, East Bishton and Slade

Wood, and possibly at 17 other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at eight sites and probably at one other; GOWER: bred at Cwm Clydach, Whiteford and Margam Park, probably at Lliw Res. and possibly at five other sites; CARMARTHEN: probably bred at RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas and possibly at five sites; PEMBROKE: bred at seven sites, inc. three pairs at Llanychaer, and probably/possibly at 14 others; CEREDIGION: bred at Llanddewi Brefi, Llanerchaeron and near Cenarth, and possibly at 10 others; BRECON: five territories along 1.5km of shore at Llangorse Lake; bred at eight sites and probably/possibly at another 27; RADNOR: three territories at Llananno; bred at Dol Frwynog and Penrhiw, probably at Gilfach and Elan Village, and possibly at 11 other sites; MONTGOMERY: bred at Dylife (two pairs in one garden), Mathafarn and Talwrn, and probably/possibly at nine other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: six pairs at Ratgoed, probably bred at six other sites and possibly at another 20; CAERNARFON: broods at four sites, inc. Rhydyclafdy where 16 were in a garden on 30 July; probably bred at Nant y Gledrydd and two sites in Conwy Valley, and 1-2 at 18 other sites; DENBIGH: bred at four sites and 1-2 at 20 other sites; FLINT: 1-2 at nine sites.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Spotted Flycatcher in Wales 2013-23



Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Sp Flycatcher	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	13 May	Beacon Hill	25 Sept.	Llanellen
E.GLAMORGAN	28 April	Hendre Lake	1 Oct.	Pant Norton
GOWER	13 May	Llanmadoc	26 Sept.	Swansea Vale
CARMARTHEN	4 May	Three locations	29 Sept.	Ashburnham Golf Course
PEMBROKE	**21 April**	**Llwyngwair**	16 Oct.	Ramsey
CEREDIGION	11 May	Long Wood, Betws Bledrws	7 Oct.	Blaencrymant
BRECON	6 May	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl	8 Sept.	Llanwrthwl & Libanus
RADNOR	29 April	Llandrindod Wells	14 Sept.	Llanbister
MONTGOMERY	30 April	Bwlchyllan & Welshpool	24 Sept.	Llanbrynmair
MEIRIONNYDD	6 May	Cwm Cywarch & Dolgellau	8 Sept.	Cefn-ddwysarn
CAERNARFON	29 April	Bardsey	1 Oct.	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	3 May	RSPB Cors Ddyga & Rhoscolyn	**9 Oct.**	**Breakwater CP, Holyhead**
DENBIGH	5 May	Upper Colwyn Bay	9 Sept.	Pentre-celyn
FLINT	30 May	Moel Llys-y-coed	10 Aug.	Flint Castle

The first in RADNOR, sound-recorded overnight, was the earliest in the county this century by four days (*cf*. 2010 and 2020). The last in MONTGOMERY was two days later than the previous latest in the county this century (*cf*. 2015).

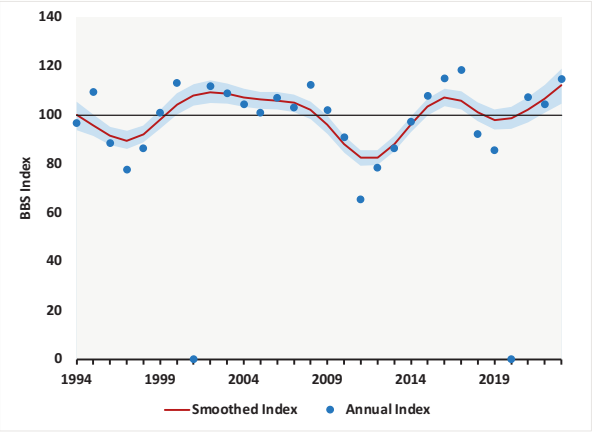
Notable passage counts. E.GLAMORGAN: seven at Peterston on 20 Aug.; six at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 28 Aug.; PEMBROKE: seven at St Davids Head on 3-4 May; seven on Skokholm on 23 May, 14 here on 25th, eight on 31st and seven on 1 June; 11 on Skomer on 25 May and nine here on 31st; CAERNARFON: 59 on Bardsey on 19 May, 27 here on 25th and 31 on 14 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 13 at RSPB South Stack on 29 May and eight here on 14 Aug.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* ROBIN GOCH

Abundant and widespread resident (905,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	13501	14117
% of BirdTrack lists	64%	62%

Breeding Bird Survey: Robin in Wales, 1994-2023



A significant 10% increase in the Breeding Bird Survey index since 2022 elevated the smoothed value to its highest recorded level, 11% above that in 1995. The index has been very stable in the long-term, as are the BirdTrack and BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rates.

Counts ≥20 likely to be on passage. GOWER: 31 in 1.3km along Nant Iorwerth-goch, Kenfig Hill, on 11 Oct.; 10 at Worm's Head on 25 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 39 at Penclacwydd on 24 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 34 dates between 30 Aug. and 4 Nov., inc. 64 on 13 Sept., 61 on 2 Oct. and 59 on 12th; 48 on Skomer on 14 Sept., 51 on 2 Oct. and 26 on 4 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 23 at Broadwater on 29 Oct.; CAERNARFON: monthly max. 14 on Bardsey on 23 Aug., 64 on 21 Sept. and 70 on 12 Oct.; 29 at Glanwydden on 28 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 22 at RSPB South Stack on 21 Sept.; 27 at Silver Bay on 22 Oct.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* EOS

Former breeder, now scarce migrant. WBRC: 126 records since 1967.

E.GLAMORGAN: singing male at St Mellons, Cardiff, on 16-26 May; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 13 May.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* BRONLAS SMOTYN COCH

Scarce visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 53 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 1CY/female on Skokholm on 12 Oct.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* GWYBEDOG BRITH

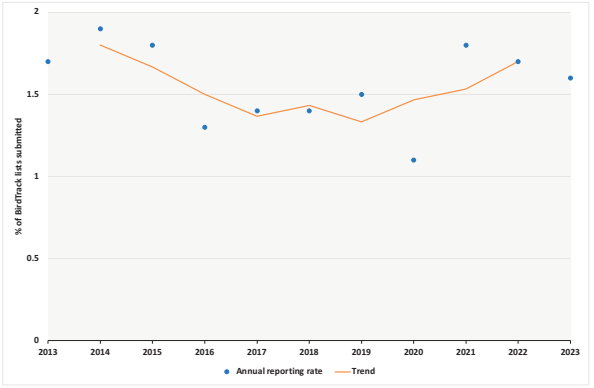
Locally fairly common but declining summer visitor in most mainland counties (15,000-19,000 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	436	457
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The UK Breeding Bird Survey showed a 26% fall in just five years and a reduction of 59% in the long-term (1995-2022). The species does not occur in sufficient BBS squares to generate a trend for Wales, even though we hold the majority of the UK population. The BirdTrack reporting rate was only marginally down on the 2013-15 mean. At the 16 tabulated sites (p.211), 2376 young were ringed at 556 nests (4.27/nest). There was marked variance between sites, but of 10 providing comparable data for both years, seven had improved breeding performance over 2022, including

four with productivity above 6.0/nest. In Pengelli Forest, PEMBROKE, it was was the best in least 13 years.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Pied Flycatcher in Wales 2013-23



Summary of breeding season records, pairs or singing males unless stated. GWENT: bred at Llanelly and possibly at 13 other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at Coed Cefn-fforest, Craig Abercwmboi and Mynydd Meio; GOWER: possibly bred near Onllwyn; CARMARTHEN: 20 at RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas, nine at Allt Rhyd-y-groes, seven at Troed-y-rhiw-bylchau, five at Coed Rhuddallt, two at Dinefwr and singles at five other sites; PEMBROKE: five males at Llanychaer; six males at three other sites, inc. confirmed breeding at Ffynone Wood; CEREDIGION: 20 in Sunnyhill Covert-Tregaron and Strata Florida; six at Plas Treflyn and Longwood; five in Tywi Forest; two at Pandy-Eglwys Fach and Llanerchaeron; singles at six other sites; BRECON: 12 AON at Coed Estyn, 18 AON at Rhiw-Llanwrthwl, 8 AON at Coed Byrysyiog, 7 AON at Cwm Sorgwm, 11 territories at Cnwch Wood, five at Pwll-yr-wrach, four at Halfway Quarry and Cathedine Common; also bred at RSPB Carngafallt and probably/possibly at 32 other sites; RADNOR: bred at 4-5 sites and possibly at 15 others; MONTGOMERY: bred at five sites, probably at three and possibly at 18 others; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at six sites, probably at three and possibly at 13 others; CAERNARFON: bred at nine sites, inc. Nant Llugwy where highest count was 10 at Tŷ Hyll; DENBIGH: at least five territories at Coed Hafod, three pairs at Loggerheads CP and three males in Dulas Valley; bred at Eglwyseg (30 birds on 29 May) and 1-2 pairs at 12 other sites; FLINT: 1-2 at five sites.

Pied Flycatcher (David Gilbert)

Pied Flycatcher: breeding productivity		*Nests*	*Young ringed*	*2023 young/nest*	*2022 young/nest*
GOWER	Cwm Clydach	17	85	5.0	3.5
CARMARTHEN	RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas	150	619	4.13	4.78
	Halfway Forest	14	84	6.0	
	Cynghordy	29	118	4.07	
PEMBROKE	Pengelli Forest	5	30	6.0	
	Pant Da	10	56	5.6	
CEREDIGION	RSPB Ynys-hir	37	115	3.1	1.71
	Tregaron	28	184	6.57	
BRECON	Coed Nant Brân	30	81	2.7	3.1
MONTGOMERY	Cefn Llwyni	18	50	2.78	2.77
	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy	97	418	4.3	3.46
CAERNARFON	Conwy Valley	29	119	4.1	2.53
DENBIGH	Conwy Valley	9	19	2.11	
	Glyn Arthur	19	109	5.7	2.59
	Prion	32	140	4.4	3.58
	Glyn Ceiriog	27	119	4.4	3.79
FLINT	Coed Cilygroeslwyd	5	30	6.0	

Data courtesy of Fledgemore, Teifi and Merseyside Ringing Groups, Cwm Clydach volunteers, Rob Thomas, Mike Haigh, Robin Sandham and Mike Baron.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Pied Flycatcher	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	4 April	Cwmbran	no autumn records	
E.GLAMORGAN	23 April	Penderyn	3 Sept.	Parc Tredelerch & Llyn Fach
GOWER	17 April	Fall Bay	21 Sept.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	7 April	Cynghordy & Ffarmers	14 Aug.	Sandy Water Park
PEMBROKE	7 April	Llanychaer	9 Sept.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	30 March	RSPB Ynys-hir	16 Aug.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	1 April	Coed Dyrysiog	15 Aug.	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	1 April	Elan Valley & Cilcenni Dingle	11 Sept.	Elan Valley
MONTGOMERY	**25 March**	**near Llanfechain**	16 Aug.	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April	Cwm Cywarch & Rhosygwala	9 Aug.	Morfa Harlech
CAERNARFON	9 April	Fachwen	1 Oct.	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	no spring records		**3 Oct.**	**Rhoscolyn**
DENBIGH	7 April	Coed Rhysog, Dee Valley	no autumn records	
FLINT	26 April	Sychdyn	no autumn records	

The first of the year in RADNOR and MONTGOMERY each matched the dates of the earliest in their county this century, in 2012 and 2021 respectively.

2020 GWENT, corrections: bred at five sites and possibly at a further three; last of year was at Beacon Hill on 3 Aug.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus* CYNFFONLAS YSTLYSGOCH

Very rare visitor from Russia and Fennoscandia. BBRC: eight previous records.

MONTGOMERY: Dyfnant Forest on 29 Sept.

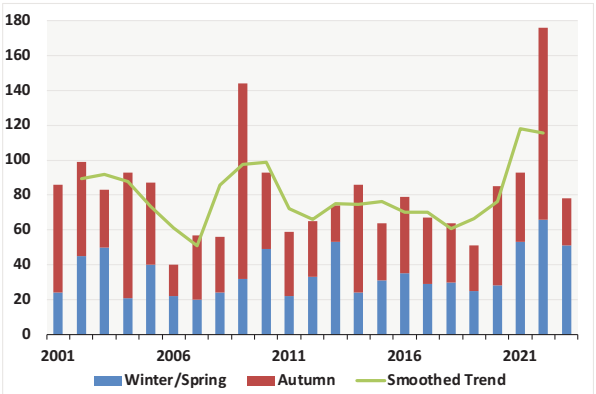
BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* TINGOCH DU

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Occasional breeder. RBBP: one possible pair in 2022. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	418	213
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

At *c.*110, numbers returned to normal after an exceptional 2022. The BirdTrack reporting rate was also lower than the previous year, but the three-year mean was 60% below that in 2013-15, probably influenced by the length of stay by individuals wintering at popular or accessible sites. There were a handful of records during the breeding season, but no suggestion of nesting this year.

Black Redstart: sum of max. in each county, 2001-23



Black Redstart: min.	TOTAL	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	**2**	2								
E.GLAMORGAN	**20**	6	10	3				2	6	6
GOWER	**4**	1	2	1					1	1
CARMARTHEN	**5**	4							1	
PEMBROKE	**24**	1		5	7	3		3	6	1
CEREDIGION	**7**	3	3		1				1	
BRECON	**1**	1	1	1						
MONTGOMERY	**3**		2		1			1		
MEIRIONNYDD	**2**								2	
CAERNARFON	**15**	3	2	3	1	1		4	2	
ANGLESEY	**22**	6	3	7	3	1		2	4	5
DENBIGH	**1**	1	1			1			1	
FLINT	**3**	1		1						

Non-breeding birds outside the months shown in the table. PEMBROKE: Wooltack Pt on 20 June; MONTGOMERY: Trefeglwys on 7-11 July; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 28 June.

2020 GWENT, additional records: Peterstone Wentlooge on 22 Oct.; Glan Llyn on 31 Dec.

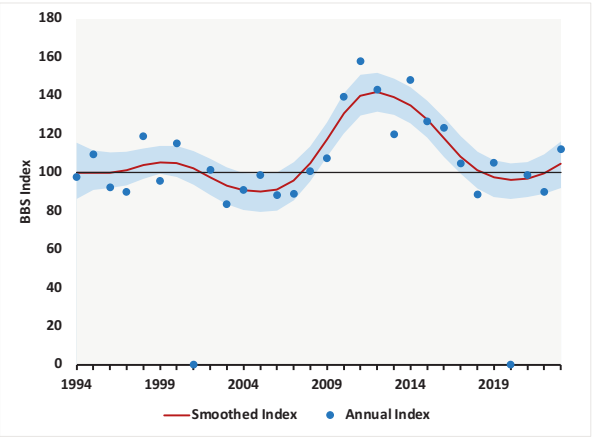
REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* TINGOCH

Fairly common summer visitor in deciduous woodland and upland ffridd (50,500 breeding pairs), but scarce in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire. Passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	718	812
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

The Breeding Bird Survey index was the highest since 2016 and 25% above its 2022 value. This helped bring the smoothed trend back to within 0.4% of the 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate has shown a very similar pattern in recent years, but the three-year mean is 33% lower than in 2013-15.

Breeding Bird Survey: Redstart in Wales, 1994-2023



Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Redstart	Earliest	Site	Latest	Site
GWENT	4 April	Caldicot Pill	**27 Oct.**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**
E.GLAMORGAN	4 April	Ogmore Down	3 Sept.	Hirwaun Industrial Estate & Llyn Fach
GOWER	1 May	Glyncorrwg & Tonmawr	15 Oct.	Pitton Cross
CARMARTHEN	7 April	Cynghordy & Cilsan Bridge	16 Aug.	Laugharne
PEMBROKE	4 April	Poppit & Cemmaes Head	1 Oct.	Skokholm & Nine Wells
CEREDIGION	9 April	Ystrad Fflur & Cross Inn	9 Sept.	Cross Inn forest
BRECON	4 April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl	2 Sept.	Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	**1 April**	**Elan Valley**	15 Sept.	Llowes
MONTGOMERY	8 April	Penybont Llanerch Emrys	2 Oct.	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April	Pontcroesor	13 Oct.	Tal y Bont
CAERNARFON	2 April	Conwy Valley	18 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	16 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga	12 Oct.	Soldier's Point, Holyhead
DENBIGH	5 April	Clocaenog Forest	3 Sept.	Llanfair Talhaiarn
FLINT	9 April	Penycloddiau	29 Aug.	Rhydymwyn

The last of the year on ANGLESEY matched the previous latest this century, in 2005.

2020 GWENT, amendment: last of the year was at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 Sept.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* CREC YR EITHIN

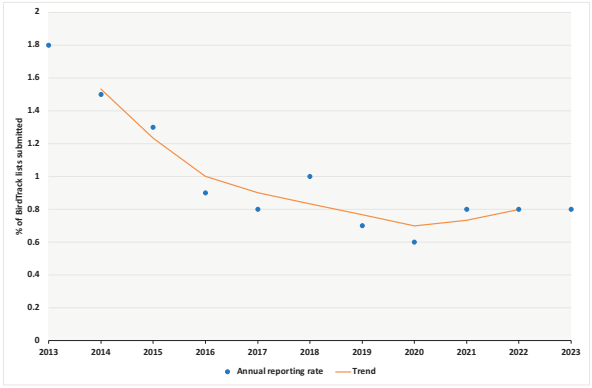
Localised and declining summer visitor, breeding in upland areas (2825 pairs in 2013). Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	283	257
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen by 60% since 1995, and while the species is too scarce for a trend to be generated in Wales, it is perhaps informative that in recent years the index has fallen more rapidly in England than Scotland. The mean BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales was 48% lower in 2021-23 than in 2013-15, with very little difference this year

between passage and breeding seasons.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Whinchat in Wales 2013-23



Breeding. GWENT: bred at Blorenge, probably at Sugar Loaf and possibly at Mynydd Llangatwg and St Mary's Vale; E.GLAMORGAN: 2-3 pairs bred below Castell Nos Res.; possibly bred at Cwm Nant-y-fedw and at Perthcelyn rifle range; GOWER: possibly bred in Cwm Nant-y-fedw; CARMARTHEN: probably bred at Trawsnant and possibly at Mynydd Llanllwni; PEMBROKE: at least two pairs on Brynberian Moor; CEREDIGION: seven pairs in 129ha at RSPB Ynys-hir, the highest total since 2008; 47 in Cwm Doethie on 26-27 May; nine in Cwm Berwyn on 14 June; eight in Camddwr valley in May; bred at Cors Caron, probably at Cerrigllwydion and possibly at Cwm Brefi and Llawrcwmbach; BRECON: 37 Territories, inc. confirmed breeding at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad and Forest Lodge, probably at Trawscoed, Nant-y-Moch Res. and Cwm Huddig, and possibly at six other sites; RADNOR: at least seven territories in Yr Elenydd, four on Beacon Hill, up to six around Llyn Heilyn, and probably bred at Great Rhos and Fron Bank; MONTGOMERY: 25 pairs in area surveyed at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; bred at Garreg Ddu; MEIRIONNYDD: five pairs at Tanrallt; bred at Cynwyd, probably above Bronaber and possibly at 12 other sites; CAERNARFON: bred in upper Llugwy valley, probably at Llyn Eigiau and present at four other sites; DENBIGH: bred at Moel Famau, World's End and Minera Quarry, probably at four sites and possibly at several in Mynydd Hiraethog.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Whinchat	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	20 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve	15 Sept.	West Pill
E.GLAMORGAN	17 April	Cosmeston Lakes CP	9 Oct.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	24 April	Grove Farm Marsh	7 Oct.	Margam Moors
CARMARTHEN	6 May	Llyn Brianne	**3 Nov.**	**Ginst Point**
PEMBROKE	**4 April**	**Poppit**	24 Oct.	Marloes Deer Park
CEREDIGION	18 April	RSPB Ynys-hir	6 Oct.	New Quay
BRECON	23 April	Craig Cerrig Gleisiad	25 Sept.	Llanwern
RADNOR	22 April	Craig Goch Reservoir	25 Sept.	Llyn Heilyn
MONTGOMERY	15 April	Lake Vyrnwy	1 Sept.	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	1 May	Vivod	26 Aug.	Arenig Fawr
CAERNARFON	19 April	Aberdaron	21 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	22 April	Cors Erddreiniog	18 Oct.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	19 April	RSPB Conwy	19 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	23 April	Gronant	no autumn records	

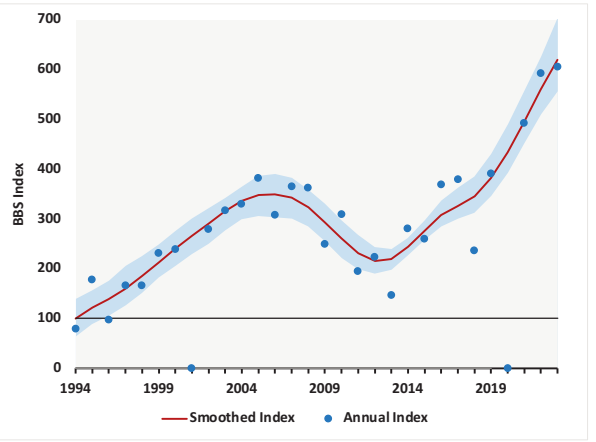
2020 GWENT, amendments: 11 territories on Bal Bach and Bal Mawr; last of the year at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 22 Oct.

STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola* CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Fairly common resident (12,082 pairs in 2013) in uplands and coastal heath, though numbers vary as a result of winter and spring weather. More widespread in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	4524	4685
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	19%

Breeding Bird Survey: Stonechat in Wales, 1994-2023



The smoothed Breeding Bird Survey index for Stonechat has increased every year for the last decade, and now sits 360% higher than in 1995, a beneficiary of milder winters and current land management regimes. No other passerine species has increased to such an extent in Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate also hit a record high in 2023. An illustration of the increase was nine pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga, ANGLESEY, compared to four in 2018 and just two prior to that. By contrast, there were 17 pairs on Ramsey, PEMBROKE, half the number in 2020, which represented the highest total ever, while 19 pairs on Bardsey, CAERNARFON, was only one fewer than the record total in 2022.

Spring passage. FLINT: 20 at Big Pool Wood on 21 April.

Autumn passage. PEMBROKE: 34 on St Davids Head on 1 Sept. and 20 here on 20 Oct.; 20 at Whitesands Bay on 7 Sept.; 50 at Garn Fawr, Strumble Head, on 9 Sept.; 24 on Skokholm on 12 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 17 at Broadwater on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: max. 24 on Bardsey on 25 Aug., 40 on 21 Sept. and 30 on 12 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 12 around Alaw est. on 20 July; 20 at Newborough Warren on 23 Sept.

2020 GWENT, additional autumn passage records: 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 29 Sept. and 10 near Redwick on 1 Oct.

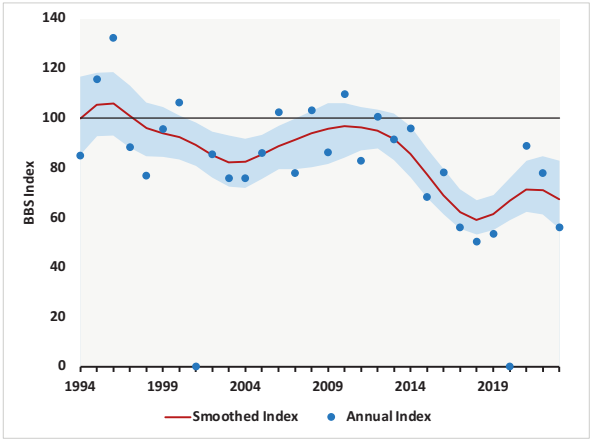
WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* TINWEN Y GARN

Fairly common summer visitor, chiefly around upland pasture (13,759 breeding pairs). Abundant passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	1676	1794
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

Another poor year for breeding numbers following a couple of years of greater abundance. The annual Breeding Bird Survey index was 28% lower than in 2022 and the long-term trend (1995-2022) has fallen further, to -33%. The island populations remain stable and at high densities, with 97 territories on Ramsey, 27 on Skomer and 23 on Bardsey. The BirdTrack reporting rate was similar to the previous couple of years, and even though it also includes encounters with passage birds, the three-year mean is 41% below the 2013-15 value.

Breeding Bird Survey: Wheatear in Wales, 1994-2023



Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Wheatear	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	17 March	Peterstone Gout	24 Oct.	Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	15 March	Rumney Gt Wharf & Wenvoe Quarry	26 Oct.	Sker
GOWER	18 March	Baglan	31 Oct.	Weobley
CARMARTHEN	17 March	Pembrey harbour	15 Oct.	Ginst Point
PEMBROKE	7 March	Porthgain	**2 Dec.**	**Porthgain**
CEREDIGION	24 Feb.	Cwmystwyth	30 Oct.	Llanrhystud
BRECON	19 March	Cwm Llia & Blaen Dyffryn	3 Oct.	Garnlydan Reservoir
RADNOR	**22 Feb.**	**Llanbister Common**	22 Oct.	Disgwylfa Hill
MONTGOMERY	18 March	near Carno	9 Oct.	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	21 March	Arthog	7 Oct.	Cadair Idris
CAERNARFON	13 March	Braichmelyn	26 Oct.	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	18 March	Three locations	31 Oct.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	17 March	Kinmel Bay	12 Oct.	Kinmel Bay
FLINT	17 March	Rhyl & Gronant	29 Oct.	Rhyl

The first in RADNOR was the earliest ever in the county by six days and the first in CEREDIGION was the earliest this century by four days (*cf*. 2021) and only one day later than the earliest ever, in 1921. The last in PEMBROKE, present from 13 Nov., became the first December record in the county, a week later than one in 2006, although there was a wintering record in Jan. 1989.

The number of sites/dates with counts ≥10 in spring was far higher than usual, so only counts ≥20 are shown. GWENT: 20 at Trefil Quarries on 9 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 21 at Sker Pt on 19 March; 21 at Pink Bay on 19 April; PEMBROKE: 26 at St Davids Head on 17 April; 48 at Porthgain on 17 April and 20 here on 18th; 220 at Garn Fawr paddocks, Strumble, and 35 at Old Castle Head on 18 April; 69 on Marloes peninsula and 74 on Skomer on 20 April; 34 at Dowrog Common, 30 at Stackpole Head and 20 at Castlemartin Corse on 22 April; CEREDIGION: 20 at Llanrhystud on 9 April, 37 here on 24th and 23 on 1 May; 60 at Ynyslas on 20 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 42 at Talsarnau saltings on 26 April; CAERNARFON: 26 on Maen Esgob on 9 April; 30 at Llangelynin on 22 April; ANGLESEY: >136 between Church Bay and Cemaes on 9 April; 64 between Beaumaris and Penmon Pt on 18 April; 31 at Silver Bay on 20 April and 23 here on 21st; >20 at Llanbadrig on 23 April; 35 at Cemlyn on 27 April.

Wheatear: max. day counts each week		*March*		*April*					*May*
		17-23	*24-31*	*1-7*	*8-14*	*15-21*	*22-28*	*29-5*	*6-12*
PEMBROKE	Skokholm	22	21	39	35	121	75	40	33
	Skomer			20	5	74	5	5	4
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	4	20	11	12	164	49	48	10
	Great Orme	18	3	8	7	60	150	34	
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	11	8	2	8	50	6	10	1
	Cemlyn	2	1	3	6	26	26	5	5

Autumn passage counts ≥10. E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Rhymney on 7 July; 17 at Sker on 17 Aug.; 10 at West Aberthaw on 3 Sept.; PEMBROKE: up to 14 on Dale airfield on 28-31 Aug.; 21 on Skomer on 28 Aug.; Skokholm on nine dates during Sept., max. 20 on 10th; >10 west of Talbenny on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: max. 47 on Bardsey on 14 Aug., 107 here on 5 Sept. and 117 on 13th; 10 on Mynydd Mawr on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 12 at RSPB South Stack on 12 Sept. and 15 here on 16th; FLINT: >20 at Prestatyn on 14 Sept.

2020 GWENT, amendments: earliest at Summerleaze and Gilwern Hill on 20 March; latest at Sugar Loaf on 4 Nov.; additional count of 10 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 1 May.

***O.o. leucorhoa* (Greenland Wheatear / Tinwen y Garn yr Ynys Las)**

Birds reported to show characteristics of the Greenland race, singles unless stated. GWENT: eight at Collister on 20 April; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Ogmore-by-Sea on 4 May; GOWER: two at Weobley on 18 Oct. and one here on 31st; CARMARTHEN: Pembrey harbour on 4 May; PEMBROKE: seven on Gann est. on 22 April; five on Skomer on 18 April, 50 here on 20th, five on 21st, 15 on 30th and singles on 11 May and 22 Sept.; 48 on Skokholm on 20 April, 10 here on 21st, nine on 22nd, five on 23rd, seven on 28th, three on 29th, singles on seven dates during 1-14 May and two here on 10th, then one on 4 Sept., four on 5th, three on 6th and six on 13th; two at Dale airfield on 2 May; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 18 April; BRECON: two at Brechfa Pool on 25 April; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Talsarnau on 26 April; CAERNARFON: most on Bardsey in mid-April were of this race, inc. up to 134 on 18th and 164 on 20th; Afonwen on 1 May; Penrhyn Bay on 19 May; ANGLESEY: two at Moelfre on early date of 20 March; Silver Bay on 24 April; Cemlyn on 10 May; RSPB South Stack on 9 June; FLINT: eight near Lloc on 20 April; Walwen saltmarsh on 25 May.

2020 GWENT: five at Mynydd Maen on 2 May; one at Waun Wen on 8 May.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* BRONWEN Y DWR

Fairly common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas (1150-4050 breeding pairs). In winter, upland birds move downstream. Wales Green listed.

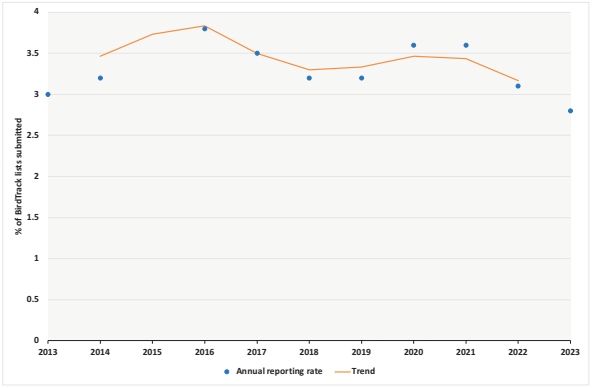
	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	932	847
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

The Waterways Breeding Bird Survey and Breeding Bird Survey indices for the UK show a steady decline by 25% since 1999 and 50% since 1995 respectively. There is no index for Wales, but the BirdTrack reporting rate was lower in 2023 than any previous year.

Dipper is a good indicator species of water quality because of its reliance on macro-invertebrate communities. A 30-year assessment of invertebrate richness taken at 4000 locations on rivers in Wales and England shows that gross urban pollution is giving way to warming climate effects and nitrogen pollution. Rivers in uplands and areas of intensifying agriculture, especially dairy, are degrading the most rapidly (Pharaoh *et al*. 2024). Weather effects, accentuated by climate change, were marked in 2023, as several long-term ringing projects noted that first nesting attempts were later than usual, perhaps because of persistent high water in March, and there were relatively fewer second attempts, perhaps due to low water levels in May. From 148 nests, 386 Dippers were ringed (2.61).

Breeding records additional to table below. GWENT: bred on R.Usk near Llanwenarth, and probably at seven other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at seven sites; GOWER: bred at 9-13 sites; CARMARTHEN: bred at RSPB Gwenffwrd-Dinas; PEMBROKE: bred at Cresswell Quay, Ffynone Wood, on R.Cleddau at Cashfield, and probably at four other sites; CEREDIGION: bred on R.Teifi near Cenarth and at Llanerchaeron; BRECON: bred at 10 sites and probably/possibly at 13 others; RADNOR: bred on R.Teme near Dutlas and possibly at six other sites; MONTGOMERY: possibly bred at eight sites; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at five sites and probably at another seven; CAERNARFON: seven pairs in R.Conwy catchment; 4-6 pairs bred on R.Ogwen; three pairs probably bred on R.Glaslyn; eight pairs at other sites; ANGLESEY: brood at Llangefni, despite one found dead at roadside on 18 Jan.; DENBIGH: bred at Llanddulas and R.Conwy near Betws-y-coed, probably at five sites and possibly at 18 others; FLINT: bred on R.Alyn near Mold and and possibly at six other sites.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Dipper in Wales 2013-23



Dipper: breeding productivity		*Nests*	*Young ringed*	*2023 young/nest*	*2022 young/nest*
GWENT	R.Wye catchment	28	83	3.2	3.6
E.GLAMORGAN	Valleys	37	77	2.08	1.27
E.GLAMORGAN/GOWER	Valleys	50	114	2.28	2.38
CARMARTHEN	East	16	66	4.13	4.0
CEREDIGION	North	10	31	3.1	
CAER/DENB	Conwy Valley	7	15	2.14	

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* GOLFAN MYNYDD

Declining and localised resident, with a patchy distribution (200-325 breeding pairs). Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	14	39
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Away from RADNOR, which held the only confirmed breeding records received this year, the number of sightings remains low and there is inevitable uncertainty about the validity of some identifications. The Breeding Bird Survey trend for England has shown a sharp downturn in recent years, with widespread reports of colony collapse at sites that had robust counts until very recently, whereas the Scottish trend has increased more than five-fold since the start of the century.

Breeding season. BRECON: population around Lower Chapel suspected to be 20-30 birds; RADNOR: records from 16 sites during the year, inc. five nestboxes occupied in a Llaithddu garden, three at Rhos-y-meirch on 6 May and two here on 6 June, and flock of 18 at New Radnor in Aug.

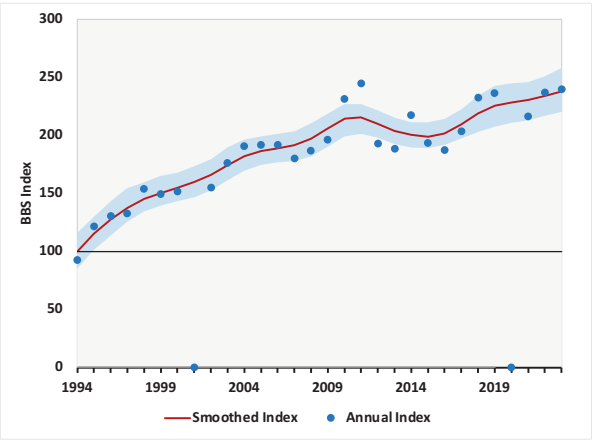
Outside the breeding season, singles unless stated. RADNOR: up to 12 in Llangunllo and 10 in Llaithddu during first winter period; singles at Black Hill and Hendregenny on 8 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: Trelystan on 3 Jan.; two in Welshpool on 1 April and 6 May, with one on several intervening dates; Dolydd Hafren on 3 Nov., increased to 11 on 11-19th; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 12 Oct.; ANGLESEY: garden near Llyn Traffwll on 4-16 April, the first record here for 35 years; two over RSPB South Stack on 12 May, one here on 6-7 June and two on 6 Sept.; Cemlyn area on 16 April, 17 and 21 May, and three here on 27th; DENBIGH: near Llanrwst on 13 April; two at Kinmel Bay on 15 Aug.; Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on 2 July; FLINT: Rhuddlan on 7 Feb.; Sealand on 4 April; three at Holywell on 25 April; Gronant on 16 July; two near Star Crossing on 9 Aug.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* ADERYN Y TO

Abundant and widespread resident (800,000 breeding pairs). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	7879	8368
% of BirdTrack lists	38%	36%

Breeding Bird Survey: House Sparrow in Wales, 1994-2023



Another small increase in the annual index takes the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index for Wales to a new high, 103% above the 1995 baseline. The trend is similar to that in Northern Ireland, but very different to an ongoing decline in England. The BirdTrack reporting rate was below average in 2023, but the three-year mean is still higher than in 2013-15. The peak BTO Garden BirdWatch recording rate has remained stable, at 85% of participating gardens, although that in September, typically the lowest in the annual cycle, was the second lowest ever.

Counts ≥70. GWENT: 89 at Sudbrook in Jan., increasing to 111 here on 16 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 80 at Hendre Lake on 23 March; 75 in Cardiff Bay on 8 May; 70 at Rest Bay playing fields on 4 Aug.; 75 in Fairwater-Cardiff and by Ogmore est. on 14 Aug.; GOWER: 100 at Rhossili on 6 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Tregamman on 2 July; 90 at Abercastle on 20 Aug.; 88 at Trefin on 18 Sept.; 95 at St Ann's Head on 25 Sept.; 85 at Marloes on 26 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 220 at Llanrhystud on 28 July; MEIRIONNYDD: 75 in Bala on 26 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 110 at Foryd on 5 July; 130 at Llanrhos on 24 July; ANGLESEY: 130 at RSPB South Stack on 8 Sept.; DENBIGH/FLINT: flock of up to 260 around Clwyd est. in Aug.

Notable. PEMBROKE: five on Skokholm on 10-22 Oct. was the highest ever count on the island.

2020 GWENT: 153 in a Sudbrook garden and 100 at Tŷ Coch, near Llanbadoc, in Sept.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* LLWYD Y GWRYCH

Abundant breeding resident (310,000 territories). Occasional post-breeding movements noted on the islands. Wales Amber listed.

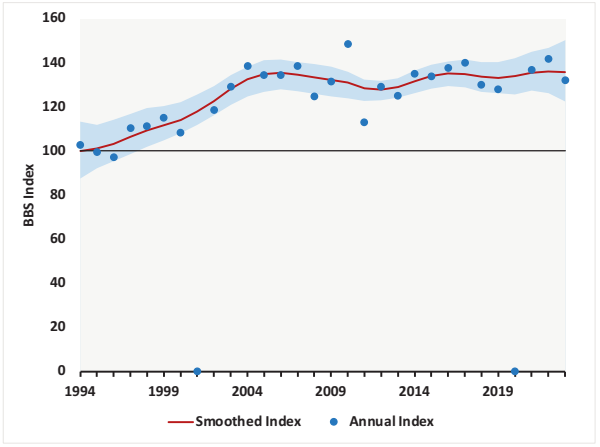
	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	9004	9055
% of BirdTrack lists	44%	42%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has remained very stable over the last 20 years, following a decade of growth from 1995. The value remains 35% above its 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been 41-47% throughout the last decade, although were at the lower end of that range in 2023.

Dunnock (Lee Parsons)

Counts ≥10 that may denote movements. E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Kenfig NNR on 30 Sept.; GOWER: 12 at Rhossili on 6 Aug.; 12 at Worm's Head on 25 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 13 at Penrhyngwyn on 8 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 12 at St Govan's Head on 22 Sept. and 10 here on 7 Oct.; 10 at Gann est. on 25 Sept.; 21 on Skomer on 8 Oct.; 30 at St Davids Head on 20 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 10 on Great Orme on 11 Sept.; 44 on Bardsey on 21 Sept. and max. 38 here on 2 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 18 at RSPB South Stack on 31 March.

Breeding Bird Survey: Dunnock in Wales, 1994-2023



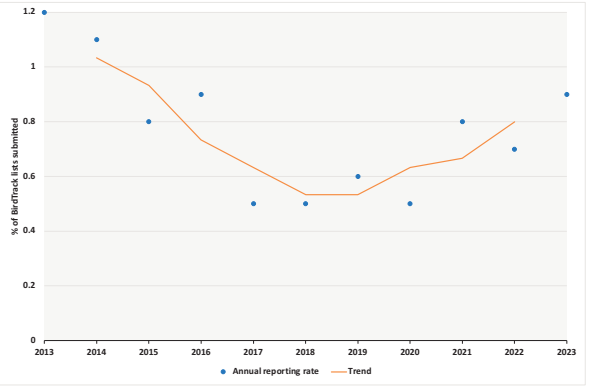
WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima* SIGLEN FELEN Y GORLLEWIN

Declining, now scarce, breeder and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	244	282
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

This species is too scarce for a Breeding Bird Survey trend to be generated for Wales, and that for England has dipped in the last couple of years, close to an all-time low. The frequency of occurrence on BirdTrack lists in Wales is low and despite an uptick in 2023, has fallen by 23% since 2013-15. Complete breeding data was not available from Gwent, which has held breeding pairs in recent years, but positively there were several pairs in the upper Dee estuary and the *Breconshire Bird Report* suggested a stronger population in recent years.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Western Yellow Wagtail in Wales 2013-23



Breeding evidence. GWENT: juveniles at Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff) from 9 July; BRECON: four territories in Llanfilo area; 1-2 territories in Llyfni valley; single territories at Ffrwdgrech, Brecon and Pencelli; possibly bred near Llangorse Lake; BRECON/RADNOR: probably bred in Wye Valley at Dderw Fields; MONTGOMERY: bred at Bacheldre, and possibly at Dolydd Hafren and Caersws; DENBIGH: possibly bred at Pulford Brook; FLINT: five pairs on RSPB managed area of Dee estuary; 2-3 pairs bred at Sealand, inc. a possible mixed pairing with *M.f. flava*; breeding suspected beside Clwyd est.; adult and juv. at Gronant on 1 Aug. but no evidence of local breeding.

Notable passage. GWENT: >10 at Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff) on 12 dates between 22 July and 17 Sept. (max. 50 on 4 Sept.); 11 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 20 Aug. and 41 here on 27th; 11 at Collister Pill on 29 Aug.; >50 at Peterstone Sluice Farm on 3 Sept. and 17 here on 6th; E.GLAMORGAN: >30 at Sker Pt/Farm on 26 Aug., 12 here on 29th, >30 on 1 Sept., and 10 on 7th and 13th; >50 at Rumney Great Wharf and 14 at West Aberthaw on 3 Sept.; 32 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 3-5 Sept.; BRECON: 11 at Llangorse Lake on 27 April.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN)

W. Yellow Wagtail	*Earliest*	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**8 April**	**Llandenny**		30 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	23 April	Sker Farm		21 Sept.	Sker Point
GOWER	16 April	Castell Ddu (see below)		10 Sept.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	24 April	Llyn Pencarreg		2 Sept.	Kidwelly Marsh
PEMBROKE	17 April	Goodwick & Skomer		26 Sept.	St Govan's Head
CEREDIGION	20 April	Ynys Tachwedd		7 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	13 April	Aberllynfi		20 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	9 April	Llowes		22 Aug.	Glasbury
MONTGOMERY	6 May	Dolydd Hafren		13 Aug.	Caersws
CAERNARFON	29 April	Great Orme (flava)		3 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	17 April	Alaw estuary		24 Aug.	Point Lynas
DENBIGH	23 April	Kinmel Bay		**18 Oct.**	**RSPB Conwy**
FLINT	15 April	Shotwick Fields		3 Sept.	Connah's Quay NR

2020 GWENT: pair bred at Llanbadoc.

***M. f. thunbergi* (Grey-headed / Siglen Benlwyd)**

Rare visitor from Fennoscandia and Russia. WBRC: 19 previous records.

CAERNARFON: Morfa Nefyn on 30 April and 1 May.

***M.f. flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail / Siglen Felen Benlas)**
Uncommon passage migrant, primarily to coastal sites in spring.

GOWER: Rhossili on 6 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 20 May; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 29 April; Morfa Nefyn on 1 May; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 23 April, 19-21 May and 2 June; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24 April; FLINT: Gronant on 23 and 30 April; at a breeding site near Sealand with *M.f. flavissima* on 6 June.

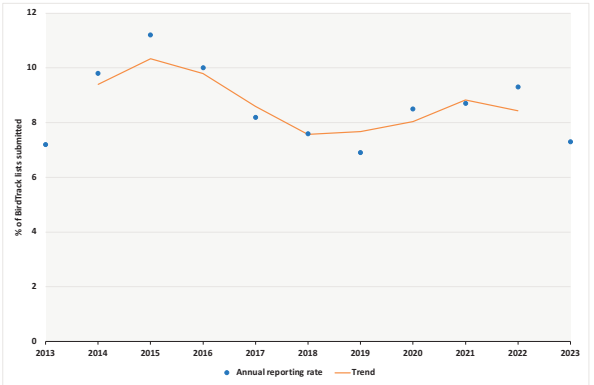
***M.f. flava X M.f. thunbergi* (Blue-headed X Grey-headed / Siglen Felen Benlas X Ben-lludw)**
ANGLESEY: male at Cemlyn on 18-19 May.

***M.f. cinereocapilla X M.f. iberiae* (Ashy-headed X Iberian / Siglen Felen Ben-lludw X Iberia)**
GOWER: Castell Ddu on 16 April.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* SIGLEN LWYD
Fairly common breeding resident (5950 pairs), mainly along fast-flowing streams in all counties. Most move downstream in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2331	1930
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	7%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Grey Wagtail in Wales 2013-23



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell by 23% between 1995 and 2022, and further in 2023, although remained within the range for this century. The UK index from the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey shows a similar pattern of change since 1999 with a reduction of 20%. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales has fallen 10% since 2013-15.

Counts ≥10 additional to table. PEMBROKE: 10 at Dale airfield on 2 Sept.; BRECON: 12 at Brecon STW on 10 and 25 Feb., and 17 Dec.; 10 at Llangorse Lake on 6 Oct.; CAERNARFON: three counts >10 in Sept., max. 18 on 10th; ANGLESEY: 10 at RSPB South Stack on 8 Sept.

Grey Wagtail: daily counts >10		*September*				
		2	*3*	*13*	*16*	*17*
E.GLAMORGAN	Lavernock Pt	50	14	12	10	11

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* SIGLEN FRAITH
Fairly common and widespread breeding resident (56,000 breeding pairs). Passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

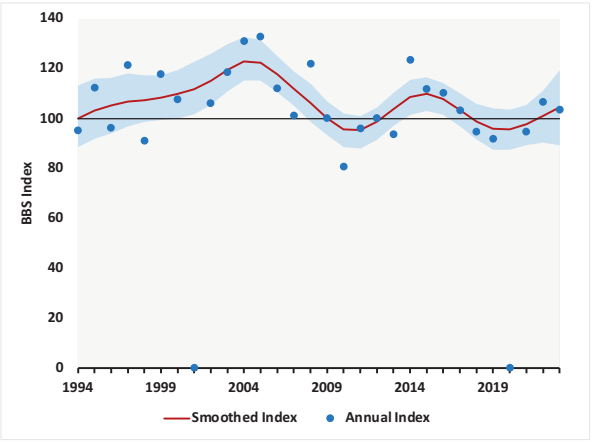
Pied/White Wagtail	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	6034	5877
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	26%

The long-term trend in breeding numbers is stable (-2%, 1995-2022), but the combined Pied/White Wagtail reporting rate in BirdTrack has fallen 20% since 2013-15, with a typical ratio of each subspecies. The UK Waterways Breeding Bird Survey index has also fallen, by a similar amount over the last 10 years and by 48% since 1999. August saw the lowest reporting rate of any month since the start of the BTO Garden BirdWatch in 1995 although the annual peak, in January, was typical of the last decade.

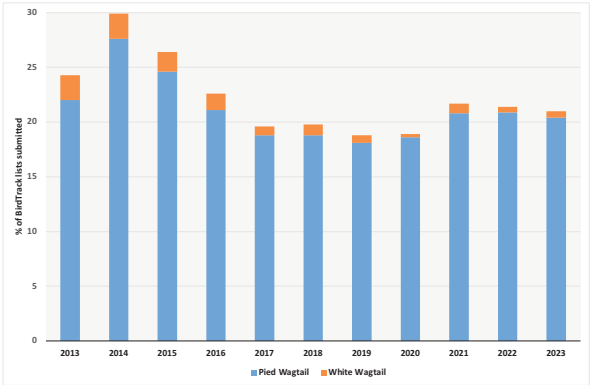
Counts >100 of *yarrellii*. GOWER: 128 at Weobley on 6 Aug.; 125 at Castell Ddu on 20 Aug. and 138 here on 16 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 600 at Withybush Hospital, Haverfordwest, on 7 Feb. and 350 here on 29 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 100 at Teifi Marshes on 17 March and 150 here on 25 April; CEREDIGION: >150 at Glandyfi on 11 Oct.; BRECON: 115 at Brecon STW on 25 Feb.; 110 roosted at Llangorse Lake on 5 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Tregele on 26 March; 500 roosted at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 31 Oct.; FLINT: 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 1 Jan.; 100 at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, Bodelwyddan, on 15 March.

2020 GWENT, additional records: 101 at Peterstone on 9 Jan.; 100 at Redwick on 12 Jan.

Breeding Bird Survey: Pied Wagtail in Wales, 1994-2023



BirdTrack reporting rate: Pied Wagtail in Wales 2013-23



***M.a. alba* (White Wagtail / Siglen Wen)**
Passage migrant in spring and autumn, mainly of Icelandic population.

White Wagtail: daily counts >5		*April*				*May*								
		9	*15*	*18*	*27*	*28*	*3*	*7*	*9*	*11*	*12*	*14*	*16*	*20*
ANGLESEY	Cemlyn	40	5	7	16	12	23	16	5	6	7	7	7	24

Other spring passage counts ≥5. GOWER: five at Castell Ddu on 17 April; PEMBROKE: 15 in Marloes area on 20 April; five at Fishguard Bay resort on 23 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: five at Teifi Marshes on 7 April, 50 here on 16th, 70 on 17th, 150 on 25th, five on 26th and 30 on 28th; CEREDIGION: max. 10 at Llanrhystud and 15 at RSPB Ynys-hir in April; CAERNARFON: ≥10 on Bardsey on three dates in April, max. 13 on 19th, then 14 on 31 Aug., on four dates in Sept, max. 50 on 1st, and six on 7 Oct.; six at Bodernabwy near Aberdaron on 21 April; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on at least six dates in April, max. >50 on 20th; 15 at Cemaes Bay on 23 April; 32 between Wylfa and Carmel Head on 25 April; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on eight dates in April, max. 24 on 12th; FLINT: 24 at Gronant on 26 April and *c.*40 here on 1 May; eight at Sandycroft on 28 April.

Autumn passage counts ≥5. PEMBROKE: seven on Skokholm on 2 Sept., 35 here on 3rd, 73 on 4th (highest island count since 2002), 72 on 5th, 18 on 6th, 12 on 7th, 16 on 8th and 15 on 11th; six on Skomer on 4 Sept. and 10 here on 6th; ANGLESEY: six at Cemlyn on 16 July; six at Aberffraw on 15 Sept.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* CORHEDYDD RICHARD

Uncommon autumn passage migrant. Now proven to winter regularly in southwest France from east Asian breeding range, thought to be via a route north of the Alps. Wales Amber listed.

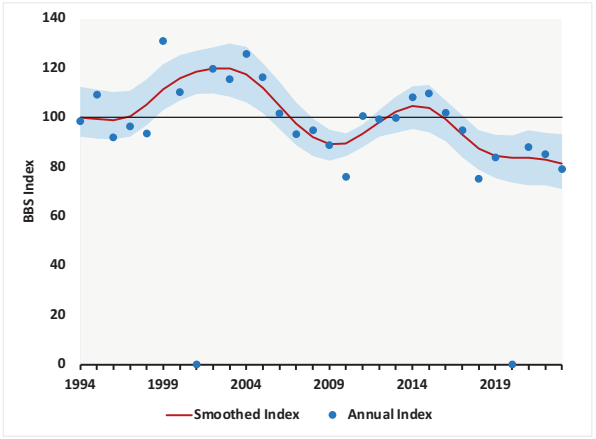
With a single record, it was the lowest annual return this century, jointly with 2017. E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 29 Oct.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Abundant and widespread breeding species, especially on moorland (170,000 pairs). Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	4764	5165
% of BirdTrack lists	21%	23%

Breeding Bird Survey: Meadow Pipit in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey annual index fell 7% from 2022, taking the long-term trend to a record low, 17% below its level of 1995. Fortunes varied on the islands: on Skomer, PEMBROKE, there were 95 pairs, 38 fewer than in 2023 and 13% below the five-year average; while in CAERNARFON 98 pairs bred on Bardsey, an increase of 11 on 2022 and 79% above the 1953-2023 average.

The BirdTrack reporting rate had shown a similar downward trend, although the value in 2023 was the highest since 2015. Nonetheless, the three-year mean has fallen by 23% since 2013-15. As usual, there was a notable spring passage in northwest Wales, but visible migration in autumn was relatively poor.

Counts ≥100 in winter/spring. PEMBROKE: 138 on Skokholm on 13 April; CAERNARFON: 147 on Little Orme on 17 March; 214 on Bardsey on 19 March, 179 here on 22nd, 143 on 24th and 210 on 12 April; 149 on Great Orme on 9 April; >100 in Nant Ffrancon on 15 April; ANGLESEY: 150 at RSPB South Stack on 15 March, 134 here on 18th, 287 on 2 April, 343 on 6th and 125 on 7th; up to 200 through Cemlyn on 17 March; DENBIGH/FLINT: 116 on Clwyd est. on 17 March; FLINT: 100 at Shotwick Fields on 1 Jan.

Meadow Pipit: daily counts ≥100		*September*					*October*	
		1-7	*8-14*	*15-21*	*22-28*	*29-5*	*6-12*	*13-19*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands			626		414	113	
E.GLAMORGAN	Lavernock Point	52	250	1200			160	30
PEMBROKE	Skokholm	82	152	80	8	200	191	116
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			267		479	384	50
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	195	131	56	125	148	110	73

Counts ≥100 elsewhere in autumn. GWENT: 790 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 16 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 200 around Llwyn-onn foresty on 27 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 100 on Strumble Head on 18 Sept.; 138 on St Govan's Head on 8 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 357 over Aberystwyth on 12 Oct.; BRECON: 100 at Penwyllt on 8 July; 200 in Nant-ddu on 27 Aug.; 130 at Llangasty on 26 Sept. and 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 156 on Bardsey on 29 Aug.; 100 at Black Rock Sands on 2 Sept.; 120 west over Great Orme on 13 Sept. and 153 here on

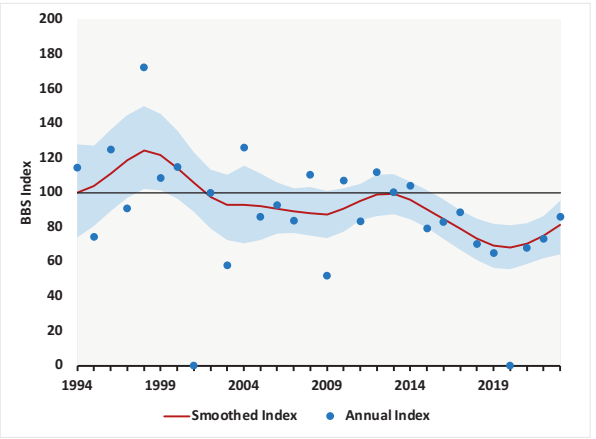
30th; DENBIGH: 116 around Clwyd est. on 17 March; >200 at World's End on 23 Sept.; FLINT: 100 at Shotwick Lake on 1 Jan.; 120 at Connah's Quay NR on 12 Sept. and 100 here on 14th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* CORHEDYDD Y COED

Fairly common, but localised, summer visitor (16,500 breeding pairs) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	407	444
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding Bird Survey: Tree Pipit in Wales, 1994-2023



The third consecutive year-on-year increase in the Breeding Bird Survey index, but it remains 24% below the level of 10 years ago. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has been declining since the middle of the last decade, and was 29% lower in 2021-23 than 2013-15. There were, however, some good passage counts in Eastern Glamorgan in the second half of August.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

Tree Pipit	*Earliest*	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	4 April	Wentwood Forest	15 Sept.	Blaenavon
E.GLAMORGAN	**29 March**	**Llanishen Reservoir**	24 Sept.	Llanishen Reservoir
GOWER	16 April	River Kenfig	3 Sept.	Three locations
CARMARTHEN	9 April	Dredger Jetty, Pwll	13 Aug.	Rhandirmwyn
PEMBROKE	7 April	Llanon	**12 Oct.**	**Martin's Haven**
CEREDIGION	9 April	Betws Bledrws & Talybont	13 Aug.	Llanrhystud
BRECON	24 April	Cathedine Common	9 Sept.	Blaen Llia
RADNOR	4 April	Llyn Heilyn	15 Sept.	Llowes
MONTGOMERY	8 April	Corndon Hill	no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	11 April	Palé	16 July	Ratgoed
CAERNARFON	9 April	Great Orme & Maen Esgob	13 Sept.	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	3 April	RSPB South Stack	9 Sept.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	16 April	RSPB Conwy	5 July	Llyn Brenig
FLINT	1 May	Moel Findeg	no autumn records	

Notable passage counts. GWENT: 25 at Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff) on 26 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 102 (in three hours) over Lavernock Pt and 53 over Kenfig NNR on 16 Aug.; 40 at Temple Bay and 31 at Lavernock Pt on 17 Aug.; 117 in 3.5 hours at Kenfig NNR on 25 Aug.

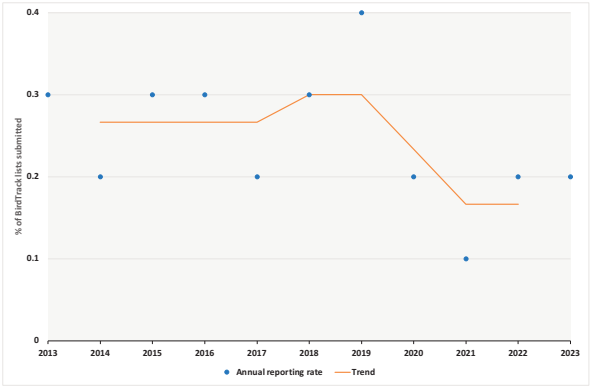
2020 GWENT, correction: last of the year was on 21 Sept. at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff).

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Uncommon, but locally numerous, winter visitor, mainly to coastal areas, and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	109	112
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Water Pipit in Wales 2013-23



The Severn estuary seems to be the most important part of Wales for this species, although RSPB Cors Ddyga is building a reputation as reliable for this species and more must surely be unrecorded in the vast saltmarshes of the Dee estuary. One on Skomer in the autumn was notable as the first island record since 1994.

First winter period, single birds unless stated. GWENT: Peterstone Sluice Farm on 21 Jan. and 21-22 Feb., then 11 here on 23 March; Caldicot Pill on 24 March; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. in Jan. to March; GOWER: two on Neath Abbey saltings on 18-19 Jan.; two at Weobley on 21 Jan.; Castell Ddu on 21 Jan., 18 and 26 March; CARMARTHEN: Banc y Lord on 22 Jan.; Penclacwydd in Feb.; PEMBROKE: Gann est. on 1-5 Jan.; Nevern est. from 1-20 Jan. and 12-26 Feb.; up to two at Newgale STW from 16 Jan. to 24 March; CEREDIGION: Clettwr from Jan. to 31 March; RSPB Ynys-hir on 24-31 March; BRECON: Llangasty from 26 Feb. to 12 March; MEIRIONNYDD: Arthog Bog on 1 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Pontllyfni on 17 Jan.; Foryd on 23 April; ANGLESEY: two at RSPB Cors Ddyga in Jan./Feb., four here on 30 March and five on 12 April; Traeth Coch from 23 Jan. to 23 Feb.; Braint est. on 19 Feb.; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 8 Jan. and singles here on 22 Feb. and 12 March; FLINT: RSPB Pt of Ayr on 15 Jan.; RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool on 10 March; Gronant on 28 March.

Second winter period. GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. from 13 Nov. to year end; two at Sully on 26 Dec.; GOWER: Weobley on 31 Oct.; Llanrhidian Marsh on 31 Oct. and 1 Nov.; four at Berthlwyd on 8 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Bosherston Ponds on 9 Oct.; Skokholm on 3 Nov.; St Govan's Head on 22 Nov.; Nevern est. on 8-29 Dec.; Newgale Marsh on 13 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Clettwr on 10 Dec. and two here on 11th; MEIRIONNYDD: Porthmadog Cob on 31 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 1-2 at RSPB Cors Ddyga from 12 Oct. to year-end, and four on 20 Nov.; Traeth Coch on 15 Nov.; DENBIGH: Clwyd est. on 12 Dec.; 1-2 at RSPB Conwy on 23-28 Dec.

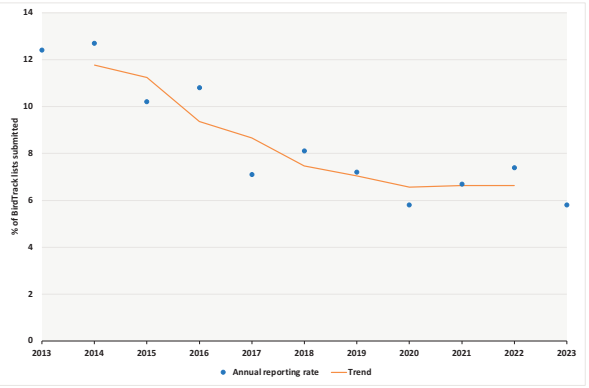
2020 GWENT, amendment: up to five at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) in Jan.; additional records: Peterstone Sluice Farm on 18 Nov.; R.Usk in central Newport on 16 Oct.; Llanwern steelworks on 10 Nov.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Localised, fairly common resident of rocky coastlines, except in Flintshire and Gwent. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to estuaries from Scandinavia. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	1752	1528
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	6%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Rock Pipit in Wales 2013-23



The BirdTrack reporting rate, the only guide to trends in Wales, has fallen 44% since 2013-15, with its value in 2023 matched only by lockdown-interrupted 2020. The only sites with consistent breeding surveys are Bardsey, CAERNARFON, which recorded 40 breeding pairs, eight more than in 2022; Skomer, PEMBROKE, where there were 20 pairs (*cf*. 19 in 2022); and Ramsey, PEMBROKE, which held 38 pairs (*cf*. 30 in 2022).

Records from counties without regular breeding records. GWENT: 1-2 pairs bred on Denny Island; Peterstone Sluice Farm on 24 Jan.; two on Usk est. on 11 Feb. and 11 March; Newport Wetlands Reserve on 30 Sept., 14 Oct. and 2 Dec.; FLINT: site max. were five at RSPB Point of Ayr on 17 Oct., three at Connah's Quay NR on 24 Jan., two at Greenfield Dock on 22 Nov. and singles at Gronant on 31 Oct. and Flint Marsh on 18 Nov.

Rock Pipit: site maxima		Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE	Skokholm	70	32	38	40	52	73	91	104	52	32
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	20	23	42	44	19	47	32	69		

Counts ≥10 elsewhere. E.GLAMORGAN: 10 on Ogmore est. in Jan.; 11 on Sully Island on 28 Jan.; 12 at Southerndown on 15 March; PEMBROKE: >10 at Gann est. during Aug. to Oct. (max. 15 on 25 Sept.); 30 at Abercastle on 20 Aug.; 28 on 15 Sept. and 20 here on 18-19 Sept. and 31 Oct. likely to include migrants; 20 on Strumble Head on 18 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 16 at Mwnt on 25 Jan.; 17 at Llanrhystud on 16 Sept.; 10 at Gwbert on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 13 on Great Orme on 20 Feb.; 20 at Criccieth on 9 May; 12 at Porth Neigwl on 20 June; 12 at Nefyn on 28 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Moelfre on 18 March; 10 on The Skerries on 1 May; 10 at Cemlyn on 30 Aug.; 10 at Silver Bay on 15 Sept.; 14 at Holyhead breakwater on 31 Oct.

***A.p. littoralis* (Scandinavian Rock Pipit / Corhedydd y Graig Llychlyn)**

Passage migrant, but probably under-recorded.

GOWER: Weobley on 18 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Traeth Coch on 22 March; Amlwch STW on 24 Oct.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* JI-BINC

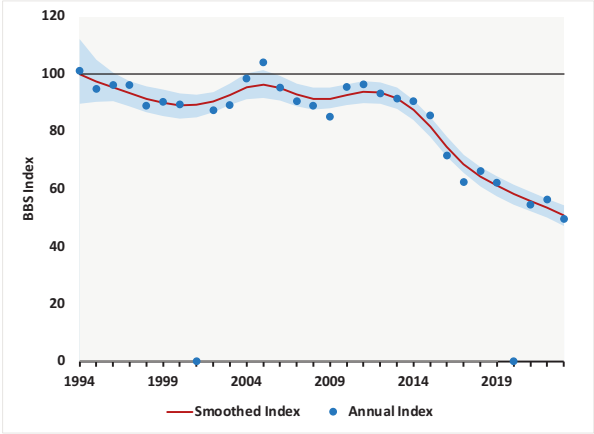
Abundant resident (470,000 breeding territories), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	7685	8411
% of BirdTrack lists	36%	37%

Breeding: a significant 12% decline in the Breeding Bird Survey annual index in just one year took the long-term value another step towards Red-list territory, 45% below its 1995 level. Most of the decline has occurred during the last decade, and is greater in Wales than elsewhere in the UK. The BTO Garden BirdWatch has shown declining garden use since 2013: the reporting rate of 67% in February was the lowest annual peak since the project started in 1995, and the

proportion of gardens containing Chaffinch in May (44%) was also the lowest ever (*cf*. average 74% in 2011-15). The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has fallen 28% since 2013-15.

Breeding Bird Survey: Chaffinch in Wales, 1994-2023



Chaffinch: daily counts ≥100		*Sept*	*October*				*Nov*
		28-4	*5-10*	*11-17*	*18-24*	*25-31*	*1-7*
E.GLAMORGAN	Lavernock Point		55	1050	1500	800	
CAERNARFON	Bardsey	278			205		
	Great Orme	11		80	770	132	40
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack	17	41	196	985		

Counts >100 elsewhere. GWENT: 629 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 950 at Temple Bay, Dunraven, on 12 Oct.; 262 at Breaksea Pt and 184 at East Aberthaw on 5 Nov.; GOWER: 100 at Margam on 8 March; CARMARTHEN: 120 near Llanegwad on 18 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Druidston on 17 Jan.; 150 at Penralltllyn Farm, Carreg-wen, on 22 Jan.; 200 at Camrose on 29 Jan.; 200 at Castlemartin Corse on 11 Feb.; >200 at Southwood on 12 March; CEREDIGION: 100 at Ystumtuen on 1 Jan.; 400 in Coed Llwyn Ifan on 26 Feb.; 140 at Furnace on 21 Sept.; 319 over Aberystwyth on 12 Oct. and 310 here on 11 Nov.; BRECON: 100 in Brecon on 15 Jan.; 150 at Libanus on 17 Jan.; >800 fed on beech mast at Wernfawr on 21 Jan.; >440 in snow on Yr Allt, Sennybridge, on 22 Jan.; >200 in Llaneglwys Wood on 25 Jan.; *c*.100 at Cefn Llechid on 12 Feb.; 140 at Talybont Res. on 7 Nov. and 150 here on 7 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 350 at Llanidloes GC on 26 Jan.; 400 on Long Mountain on 26 Feb.; 400 at Lake Vyrnwy on 14 March; MEIRIONNYDD: 196 at Pantperthog on 29 Jan.; 161 at Pennal on 7 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 109 west at Morfa Aber on 23 Oct.; 250 at Bryn Adda, Bangor, on 18 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 110 at Llanddyfnan on 11 Jan.; 150 at Holyhead breakwater on 19 Oct.; 200 on stubble at Din Lligwy on 22 Nov.; DENBIGH: 600 in Coed Hafod on 22 Jan.; FLINT: 200 at Connah's Quay NR on 31 Jan. and 12 March, and 300 here in Nov.; 834 east over RSPB Pt of Ayr on 17 Oct.

2020 GWENT, additional records: 100 at Cadira Beeches on 3 Jan.; 244 over Newport Wetlands Reserve on 23 Oct.

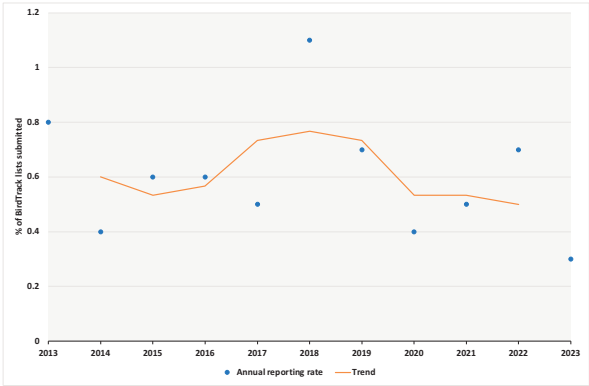
Brambling (James Shrimpton)

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* PINC Y MYNYDD

Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed. Wales Green listed (incorrectly listed previously as Amber).

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	228	111
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Brambling in Wales 2013-23



It was a poor year for Bramblings, particularly the second winter period. The BirdTrack reporting rate was the lowest for more than a decade and there were only two counts of more than 50, both in Montgomeryshire.

Counts ≥10 in first winter period. GWENT: 20 at Cwmtillery Lakes on 12 April; CEREDIGION: 20 at Ystumtuen on 1 Jan.; RADNOR: 12 at Llaithddu on 9 March; MONTGOMERY: 80 near Cefn Coch on 17 Jan.; 30 on Llanidloes GC on 26 Jan.; >50 at Lake Vyrnwy on 14 March; 12 at Dolydd Hafren on 15 March; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 beside lower Tryweryn on 10 March.

Counts ≥10 in second winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Lavernock Pt on 25 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 10 on Bardsey on 22 Oct.

2020 GWENT: 20 at Wentwood on 3 Jan.; 10 at Peterstone Sluice Farm in Feb.

Latest and earliest dates in each county (provisional in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN).

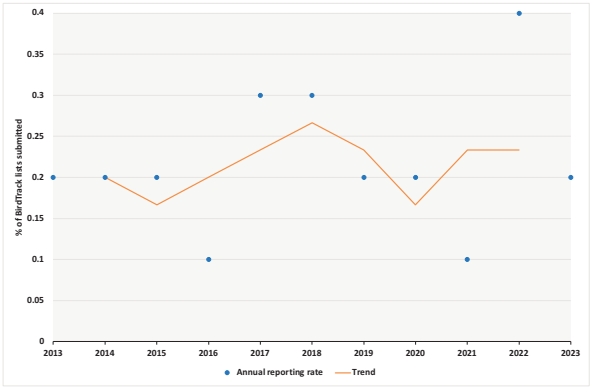
Brambling	*Latest*	*Site*	*Earliest*	*Site*
GWENT	12 April	Cwmtillery Lakes	14 Oct.	Brynmawr & Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	5 March	Stout Bay	12 Oct.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	7 Feb.	Neath Valley	no autumn records	
CARMARTHEN	5 Feb.	Dinefwr Castle	3 Nov.	Llyn Llech Owain CP
PEMBROKE	10 April	Gann estuary	**8 Oct.**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	6 April	RSPB Ynys-hir	10 Oct	Aberystwyth
BRECON	2 April	Nant Honddu	27 Oct.	Bronllys
RADNOR	28 April	Llandrindod Wells	24 Oct.	New Radnor
MONTGOMERY	**30 April**	**Welshpool**	9 Oct.	Cefn Coch
MEIRIONNYDD	19 April	Lower Tryweryn	21 Oct.	Tywyn & Pontcroesor1
CAERNARFON	17 Jan.	Llyn Glasfryn	9 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	8 April	Carmel Head	16 Oct.	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	3 April	Llyn Brenig	22 Oct.	Wrexham & Clwyd estuary
FLINT	1 April	Bagillt	17 Oct.	RSPB Point of Ayr

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* GYLFINBRAFF

Localised and uncommon resident, principally in southeast Wales and Meirionnydd. RBBP: 57 pairs recorded in 2022, but estimated total is c.450 pairs. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor from Norway. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	203	155
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Hawfinch in Wales 2013-23



The BirdTrack reporting rate was typical of the last decade, athough lower than in 2022.

Breeding season (mainly April to June). GWENT: three at Lower Minnetts Wood in Feb., two in April and three in July; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred (max. five birds) at Fforestganol; four at Tongwynlais on 19 April; two at Hendre Lake on 1 May; GOWER: Reynoldston on 8-9 June; CEREDIGION: 1-2 in Eglwysfach on 10 May; Glandyfi on 1 June; BRECON: RSPB Carngafallt; RADNOR: four sites during May to Aug.; MONTGOMERY: Powis Castle throughout the year, inc. March (max. 24 on 5th), May, Aug., Nov. and Dec.; two at Wylfa, near Machynlleth, from 26 April to 1 May; Pantperthog on 17 June; MEIRIONNYDD: Tan-y-coed on 14 June; bred in Planfa Fawr and RSPB Mawddach Woodlands; CAERNARFON: Aberdunant on 13 April and two here in June (one colour-ringed at Llanelltyd, Meirionnydd, in April 2022); two in Pentrefelin on 23 April; five in Llanrhos on 22 June may have been a family group (1-3 between here and Penrhyn Bay in Jan.-April); DENBIGH: Bodnant Garden on 14 May.

First winter period elsewhere, singles unless stated. GWENT: Llangybi on 1 Jan.; Usk on 15 Jan.; Slade Wood on 3 Feb. and three here on 30 July; E.GLAMORGAN: up to three at Cosmeston Lakes CP in Jan./Feb. (max. on 21-30 Jan.); singles at Cefn Onn ridgeway on 10 Feb. and Merthyr Mawr on 5 March; seven at Coed Llwyn-celyn on 15 March; two at Dyffryn Gardens on 26 March; MONTGOMERY: two at Castle Caereinion

on 7 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: up to eight at Llanelltyd (max. on 4 Feb.), two in Dolgellau on 27 March; CAERNARFON: Llandudno Junction on 1 Jan.; Bangor on 2 Jan.; up to five in Llanbedr-y-cennin (max. on 15 Feb.); CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: five in Llanrwst in Jan., and four in Feb. and March; DENBIGH: up to three at Llanfair DC on 28-29 March; FLINT: Mold on 10-11 April.

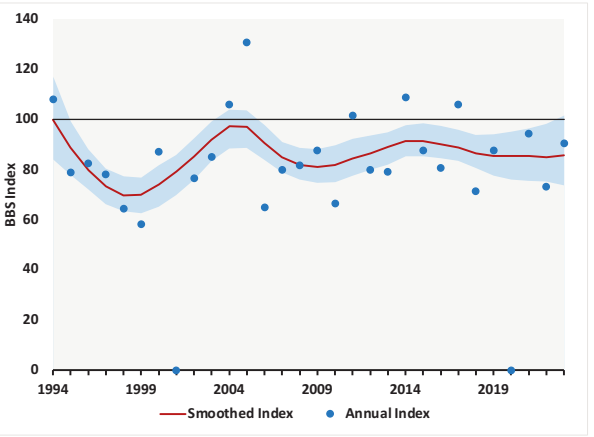
Second winter period. GWENT: two at Usk on 25 Nov.; Brockweir on 29 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Michaelston-le-Pit on 6 Nov.; four at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 30 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: three at Cynghordy on 27 Nov.; BRECON: Llanwrthwl on 14 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: Castle Caereinion in Nov.; Dolydd Hafren on 25 Nov.; 2-3 at Powis Castle from 25 Nov. to year-end; MEIRIONNYDD: five in Llanelltyd on 30 Nov.; 1-2 at Coed Wern Ddu on 15 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 25 Oct.; four at Caerhun on 26 Oct.; two in Bangor on 22 Nov.; Llandudno Junction on 30 Dec.; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: up to three in Llanrwst from 31 Oct. to 11 Nov.; FLINT: Pantymwyn on 22 Jan.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* COCH Y BERLLAN

Fairly common resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands (29,500 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed.

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	2725	2802
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%

Breeding Bird Survey: Bullfinch in Wales, 1994-2023



The UK BBS index has fallen sharply in recent years, down 26% in just five years, driven by declines in England. Numbers in Wales have not shown any real change in the last decade, unlike the trends in some other breeding finch species. The long-term index for Wales is down just 4%. However, a couple of other schemes are starting to point downwards. Following a long-term increase, the BTO Garden BirdWatch recording rate has fallen back since 2019, and the 2023 peak – in 15% of gardens in June – was the lowest since 2009. The BirdTrack reporting rate was also at the lowest level since 2014.

Counts ≥10. GWENT: 15 at Portskewett on 9 Aug.; 12 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 18 Oct.; 13 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 28 Oct.; 20 at Bedwas colliery on 20 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Cosmeston lakes CP on 21 Jan.; 10 at Robertstown on 7 March; 10 at Kenfig NNR on 10 Sept.; 29 at Lavernock Pt on 9 Oct., 10 here on 21st, 27 on 22nd, 11 on 23rd and 10 on 25th; GOWER: 10 at Pwll Du on 28 Jan.; CEREDIGION: flock of 18 at Llyn Pendam on 22 Feb.; BRECON: 10 at Sennybridge on 24 Jan.; 10 in Glasfynydd Forest on 28 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 11 at Brynteg on 31 Jan.

2020 GWENT: 15 at Coity Ponds on 28 June.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* LLINOS GOCH

Scarce passage migrant from north/eastern Europe. WBRC: 176 previous records.

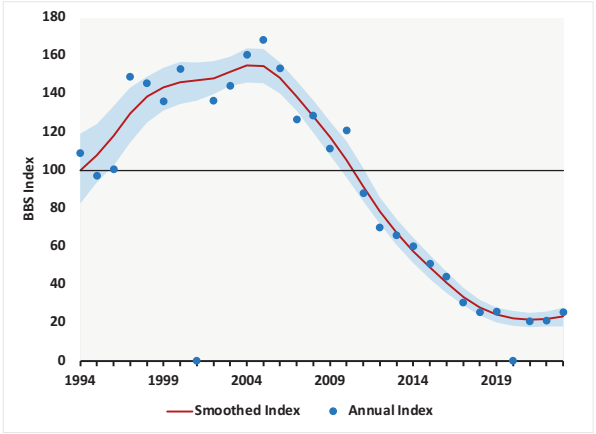
All singles and either 1CY or female. PEMBROKE: Skomer on 14 Sept.; two ringed on Skokholm on 1 Oct., one remained on 2nd and a third here on 6th; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 15 Oct.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris* LLINOS WERDD

Fairly common resident (38,000 breeding pairs), but has declined as a result of Trichomonosis disease. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	3150	3341
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	14%

Breeding Bird Survey: Greenfinch in Wales, 1994-2023



Are there some signs of hope for Greenfinch? For the second consecutive year, there was an increase in the annual index of the Breeding Bird Survey, this year by 21%, although given the scale of the decline the difference on the chart is barely noticeable. It remains the species monitored by the BBS that has undergone the greatest long-term decline in Wales, and this year's results only reduced the deficit since 1995 from 80% to 79%.

BTO Garden BirdWatch figures also suggest that the decline may have bottomed-out, although both the summer peak and the autumn trough reporting rates were, at 29% and 17%, the second worst after those in 2021. For comparison, the equivalent figures 20 years previously were 78% and 67%. The annual average number recorded in each garden has fallen from 4.59 to 0.62 (-86%). The BirdTrack reporting rate was 10% higher during 2021-23 than in 2018-20, but still 31% below 2013-15.

Counts ≥40. GWENT: 60 at Black Rock on 6 Jan. and 50 here on 9 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 43 at Sully Island on 14 Oct.; GOWER: >40 at Mewslade on 28 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 68 roosted at Kidwelly Quay on 4 March; BRECON: up to 92 roosted in a Pennorth garden in Feb. and March, the largest total in the county since 2010; CAERNARFON: 40 at Llys Helig, Great Orme, on 12 Oct.; 117 roosted by Llandudno Pier on 15 Oct. and 85 here on 26 Dec.; 55 in Llanrhos cemetery on 5 Dec.; ANGLESEY: >50 at Llanfwrog on 14 Dec.; FLINT: *c.*40 at Gronant on 19 Dec.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris* LLINOS Y MYNYDD

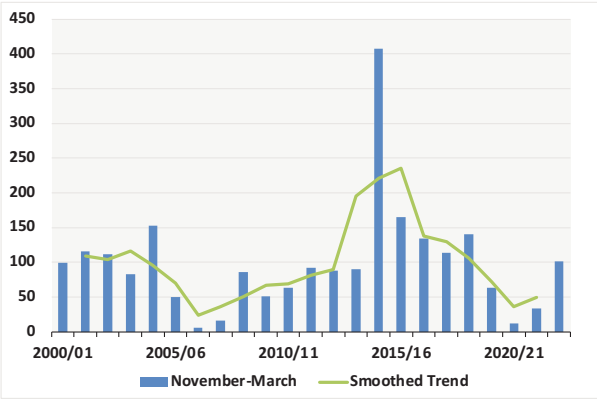
Rare breeding species, now restricted to a small part of Caernarfonshire. Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	98	53
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season. CAERNARFON: none recorded on a dedicated survey above Nant Ffrancon but birds recorded in suitable habitat between 13 April and 2 Aug., (max. four on 15 May and five on 2 Aug.); singles at nearby Nant Benglog on 21 May and 9 June.

Non-breeding: winter 2022/23 saw higher numbers on Deeside than for several years, but barely any were recorded at the start of winter 2023/24. Singles unless stated. CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 28 Oct.; ANGLESEY: up to eight between Aberffraw and Bodorgan on 18-21 Jan.; two over RSPB South Stack on 22 Oct.; Traeth Coch on 15 Nov.; DENBIGH: six near Pen-y-cae, Ruabon Mt, on 18 April; FLINT: three at Gronant in Jan., six here in Feb. and 21 on 18-25 March, then one from 30 Oct. to 1 Nov. and five on 8th; max. 43 at Connah's Quay NR in Jan. (on 14th), 19 in Feb. and 27 in March; five at Flint Marsh on 2 Jan., 20 here on 23 March and 30 on 30th; RSPB Pt of Ayr on 25 Dec.

Twite: sum of site max. during Nov.-March, 2000/01-22/23

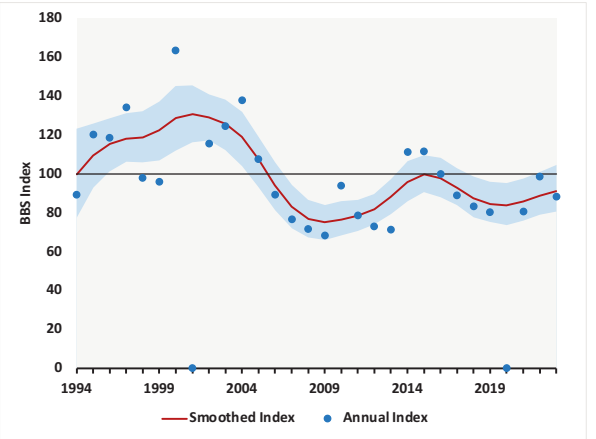


LINNET *Linaria cannabina* LLINOS

Fairly common resident (47,500 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	3684	3787
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	17%

Breeding Bird Survey: Linnet in Wales, 1994-2023



Strong numbers in 2022 have prevented the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed trend falling, but it remains 19% below its 1995 level and 30% below the turn of the century. The BirdTrack reporting rate value was the highest since 2016 yet the mean in 2021-23 was nonetheless 14% lower than in 2013-15.

Breeding surveys. PEMBROKE: 66 territories on Ramsey (*cf.* 64 in 2022).

Counts ≥100 in first winter period. GOWER: 110 at The Vile on 6 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: >100 at Penclacwydd on 9 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 500 at Camrose on 29 Jan.; 1000 at Castlemartin Corse on 11 Feb.; 100 at Dale airfield on 8 April; 121 on Skokholm on 16 April; 140 at Marloes Mere on 23 April; BRECON: 111 at Libanus on 19 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 100 on Long Mountain on 26 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: *c.*150 at Druid on 5 March; 117 at Penllyn on 16 April; CAERNARFON: 100+ at Llangwnadl on 6 Feb.; 130 at Glanwydden on 19 March; 112 on Mynydd Mawr on 10 April; 149 on Bardsey on 14 April, 130 here on 17th, 251 on 18th and 131 on 19th; ANGLESEY: 100 at Aberffraw on 4 Jan.; 232 over RSPB South Stack on 17 April; FLINT: up to 160 at Gronant in Jan./Feb.; 220 at Walwen Fields on 28 Feb.

Counts ≥150 in second winter period. GWENT: 150 at Llangybi on 2 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 700 at West

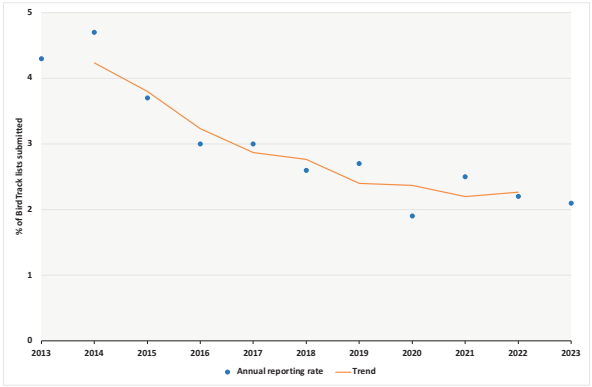
Aberthaw on 3 Sept.; >200 at Sker Pt on 13 Sept.; 400 at Lavernock Pt on 12 Oct., 200 here on 16th, 400 on 21st, 220 on 23rd and 150 on 25th; >200 at Kenfig NNR on 25 Sept.; GOWER: 700 on The Vile on 16 Aug. and up to 500 here on 28 Sept.; PEMBROKE: up to 200 at Castlemartin Corse between 9 Aug. and 18 Sept.; 350 at Abercastle on 20 Aug.; 200 at West Hook on 1 Sept.; >200 at St Davids Head on 10 Sept.; 300 at Porth Clais harbour on 28 Sept.; 210 on Skokholm on 12 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 250 at Ynyslas on 12 Sept.; 300 at Llanrhystud on 16 Sept. and 250 here on 30 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 180 near Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant on 1 Aug.; CAERNARFON: montly max. on Bardsey, 176 on 30 Aug., 264 on 18 Sept. and 418 on 9 Oct.; 275 at Glan y Môr Elias on 25 Sept.; >100 at Rhydlios on 26 Dec.; FLINT: 218 at Gronant on 21 Aug.

REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea* LLINOS BENGOCH

Uncommon breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	555	577
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Redpoll in Wales 2013-23



The Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index has fallen by 21% since 2012 but the year-round BirdTrack reporting rate has declined more dramatically, by 46% since 2013-15, and numbers in winter 2022/23 were especially poor with only four counts of ≥15 during November to February.

Counts ≥15 in Jan.-June. CAERNARFON: 18 on Great Orme on 19 April; 32 on Bardsey on 27 April; ANGLESEY: 17 at RSPB South Stack on 8 April and 18 here on 19 May; DENBIGH: 17 at RSPB Conwy on 14 Jan.

Counts ≥15 in July-Dec. GWENT: 44 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14 Oct.; up to 30 at St Julian's during Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 40 in Nant Mellte on 26 July; 40 at Garwnant 24 Sept. and >30 here on 15 Oct.; 20 at Dunraven Bay on 2 Oct., 50 here on 12th and 20 on 19th; 25 at Lavernock Pt on 12 Oct., 50 here on 21st and 90 on 25th; 20 at Nant Moel Res. on 28 Oct. and 35 here on 25 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 24 over Aberystwyth on 12 Oct.; 40 in Cross Inn Forest on 15 Oct.; BRECON: 45 at Blaen Taf-fechan on 20 Oct.; 25 in Buckland Wood on 31 Oct.; 35 at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 14 Dec. and 150 here on 23rd;DENBIGH: 20 in Pendinas Forest on 5 Nov.

2020 GWENT: 21 over Cold Harbour Pill on 16 Oct.; 20 over Newport Wetlands Reserve on 18 Oct. and 15 here on 22nd.

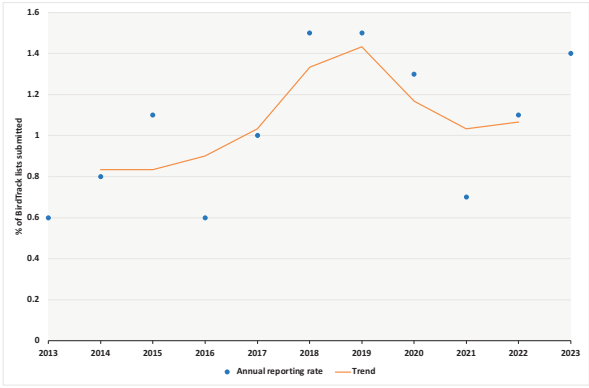
COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* GYLFINGROES

Locally fairly common breeding species although numbers fluctuate. Occasional irruptive immigrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	308	433
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for the UK (there is not one for Wales) has declined by 10% in the long-term (1995-2022), but the bald figures hide the cyclical and itinerant nature of the population. Like the BBS, the BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales appears to be in the early phase of the upward part of the cycle and there were good counts from a number of sites, as well as autumn passage on the Glamorgan coast.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Common Crossbill in Wales 2013-23



Breeding evidence. E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Pen y Graig-Treharris and Penmoelallt; GOWER: two pairs each at Cwm Pelenna/Tonmawr, Crynant Forest and Glynneath; CARMARTHEN: bred in Brechfa Forest and probably at Llyn Llech Owain and Halfway Forest (part in Breconshire); PEMBROKE: bred at Glynaeron and Causeway plantation, Cuffern; CEREDIGION: bred in Cwm Einion, Allt y Crib and Hafod estate, Cwmystwyth; BRECON: possibly bred at eight sites; DENBIGH: bred in Coed Llandegla; several family groups in Clocaenog Forest in early March; FLINT: family group below Moel Arthur on 8 Oct.

Counts ≥25. E.GLAMORGAN: at Garwnant, max. 30 in Sept., 26 in Oct., 40 in Nov. and 35 in Dec.; 49 at Dunraven on 12 Oct., 270 here in one hour on 16th and 30 on 19th; 41 at Lavernock Pt on 12 Oct. and 122 here on 25th; 30 in Hensol Forest on 5 Nov.; 30 above Cwmbach on 14 Dec.; *c.*75 around Carno Res. on 23 Dec.; GOWER: 25 at Hirfynydd on 19 Jan.; 25 at Middleton on 15 Oct.; 60 at Pelenna Forest on 8 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*30 in Brechfa Forest in Oct and Nov.; PEMBROKE: 30 near Trecwn on 11 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 50 at Hafod estate, Cwmystwyth, on 19 April (50% juveniles); 35 at Cross Inn on 26 Nov.; CARMARTHEN/BRECON: >50 at Usk Res. on 1 Dec.; BRECON: 75 in Coed Carno on 22 Dec.; RADNOR: *c.*30 at Crossgates on 18 June; >160 in Radnor Forest in Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 44 at Pantperthog on 22 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 44 at Tan-y-coed on 22 Oct.; DENBIGH: 40 in Clocaenog Forest in early March and May; FLINT: *c.*40 below Moel Arthur on 24 Oct.; 30 in Nercwys Forest on 29 Oct. and 25 Nov.

2020 GWENT, additional breeding records: three nests at Carno Forest and probably bred at Llangwm.

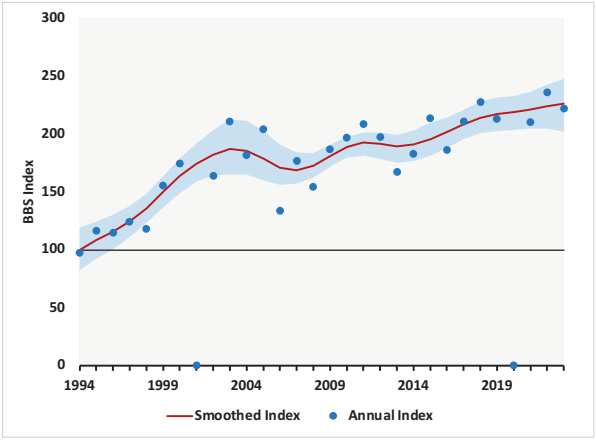
Goldfinches (Joshua Pedley)

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* NICO

Fairly common resident and summer visitor (180,000 breeding pairs) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	9077	9166
% of BirdTrack lists	43%	40%

Breeding Bird Survey: Goldfinch in Wales, 1994-2023



Despite a slight fall in the annual Breeding Bird Survey index since 2022, the smoothed trend achieved a record high, 107% above its 1995 level. The BTO Garden BirdWatch has also recorded a long-term increase, although the peak recording rate in the year (64% of gardens in April) was the lowest since 2009. The BirdTrack reporting rate also dropped back and, unusually, there were no flocks of ≥100 in spring.

Goldfinch: daily counts ≥100	October						
	12	16	17	18	21	23	25
E.GLAMORGAN, Lavernock Pt	1570	3010	1030	580	1200	1360	1500

Other flocks ≥150 in autumn. GWENT: *c.*200 at Black Rock on 15 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 150 at Lavernock Pt on 13 Sept.; 200 at Kenfig NNR on 25 Sept.; GOWER: 300 at Rhossili on 15 July and 350 here on 26 Sept.; 200 at Baglan Energy Park on 25 Sept. and 150 here on 1 Oct.; 150 on Neath Abbey saltmarsh on 29 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*200 at Penclacwydd on 7 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 184 on Skokholm on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 1386 over Bardsey on 9 Oct. (*cf.* previous highest 439 on the island in 2015); ANGLESEY: >300 at Pt Lynas on 16 Sept.; FLINT: up to 300 at Connah's Quay NR on 17 Sept.; 150 at Hawarden Ind. Park on 10 Sept.

2020 GWENT, additional record: 100 at Llangybi on 3 Oct.; >1000 east over Cold Harbour Pill on 16 Oct.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* LLINOS FRECH

Rare visitor from continental Europe. WBRC: 36 previous records.

ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack on 27 May was the first island record.

SISKIN *Spinus spinus* PILA GWYRDD

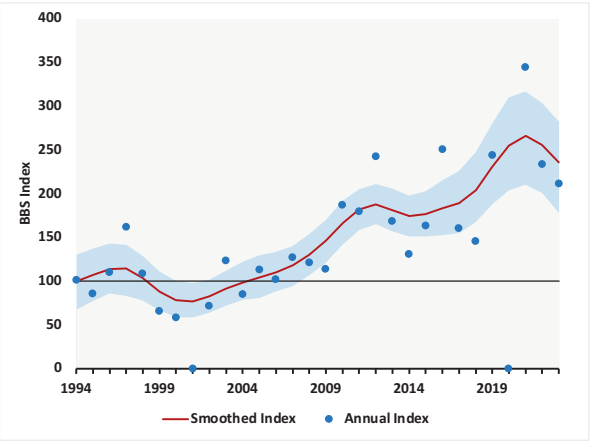
Fairly common but local breeding species (58,500 pairs), winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2449	2378
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	10%

Following a couple of decades of almost continual growth, the Breeding Bird Survey index fell for the second consecutive year. Nonetheless, it remains 139% higher than in 1995. The BirdTrack reporting rate was also lower than the previous couple of years, though that for the BTO Garden BirdWatch was fairly typical, with a peak of 27% of participants recording the species in March, as winter visitors moved back to Scandinavia. Large numbers were recorded on

passage in Oct., including 511 over Bardsey on 9th, the island's largest ever count.

Breeding Bird Survey: Siskin in Wales, 1994-2023



Counts ≥60 additional to table. GWENT: 110 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 17 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 140 at Dare Valley CP on 4 Jan.; 300 at Dunraven Bay on 2 Oct.; 100 at Kenfig NNR on 2 Oct. and 228 here on 9th; 1100 at Temple Bay on 12 Oct.; 65 at Robertstown on 27 Nov.; 150 at Cwmbach wetlands on 29 Dec.; 108 at Ysguborwen on 30 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 82 on Skomer and 80 on Skokholm on 12 Oct.; CEREDIGION: up to 150 on Cwm Einion in Sept. and 60 here in Oct.; 472

Siskin: daily counts ≥60		Aug	September				October			
		30-5	6-12	13-19	20-26	27-3	4-10	11-17	18-24	25-31
E.GLAMORGAN	Lavernock Point	91	30	450			15	2710	1000	150
CAERNARFON	Bardsey		4		6		511	173	51	
ANGLESEY	RSPB South Stack						55	76	163	

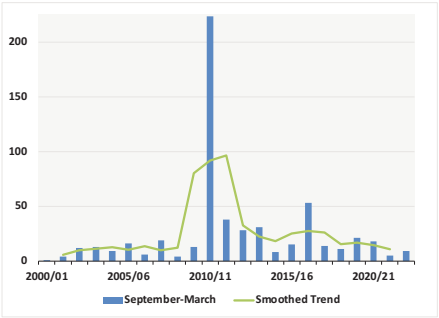
over Aberystwyth on 12 Oct.; BRECON: 150 at Talybont Res. on 3 Jan. and at Lower Cathedine on 9th; 70 on feeders in a Llangynidr garden on 20 March; 75 at Llangasty on 19 Nov.; 70 in Brecon on 17 Dec.; *c.*100 in Glyn Tarell on 19 Dec.; 70 in Brecon on 17 Dec.; 90 in Cwm Dyfnant on 23 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 80 at Breidden Hill on 26 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 65 at Tabor, Dolgellau, on 2 Jan.; up to 70 in Cwm Cywarch in April and >80 here on 6 May; 64 at Pennal on 7 Nov. and 142 here on 11 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 100 on Great Orme on 17 Oct., 80 here on 21st and 200 on 22nd; ANGLESEY: 60 at Brynrefail on 1 Jan.; >100 in Pentraeth Forest on 21 Oct.; 60 at Silver Bay on 23 Oct.; DENBIGH: 80 at Llyn Brenig on 11 Feb. and >60 here on 2 April; FLINT: *c.*70 below Moel Arthur on 8 Oct.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* BRAS Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon but regular passage migrant, especially in autumn, and occasional winter resident. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	49	36
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Lapland Bunting: sum of largest count in each county during Sept.-March, 2000/01-22/23



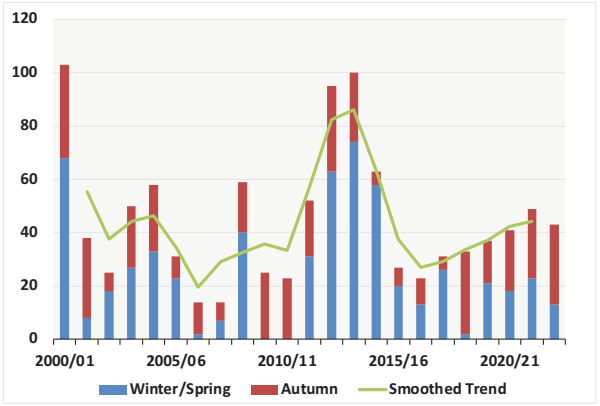
2022/23 was a second consecutive below-average winter, with only one in the first half of 2023, although that was Carmarthenshire's fifth ever. Singles unless stated. CARMARTHEN: Mynydd Llanybydder on 14 March; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 26 Oct.; two at Llanon on 28 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 21 Sept., four here on 12 Oct., one on 17th and two on 25th; two at Porth Ysgaden on 21 Oct.; ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack on 17 Sept.; Cemlyn on 18 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 17-22 Oct.; FLINT: RSPB Pt of Ayr on 17 Oct.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* BRAS YR EIRA

Uncommon but regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Most considered to be of subspecies insulae, which breed in Iceland. Wales Amber listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	172	114
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Snow Bunting: sum of largest count in each county, 2001-23



A slight reduction in both the BirdTrack reporting rate and the summed largest counts across Wales. Several records from inland mountain sites in late autumn illustrate the potential for others being undetected.

First winter period, single birds unless stated. BRECON: six on Craig Cwm Cynwyn ridge on 4 Feb.; CAERNARFON: Blaen-y-coed-Migneint on 5 Feb.; Great Orme on 17 March and two here on 20 April; Bardsey on 26 April; ANGLESEY: two at RSPB South Stack on 3 Feb.; Newborough Warren on 26 Feb.; Amlwch Port on 20 March; DENBIGH: Kinmel Bay from 2022 to 17 March; Gronant on 18 March and Pt of Ayr on 20-23rd.

Second winter period. GWENT: Bal Mawr, Black Mountains, on 7 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: Mynydd Pwll-yr-lwrch on 24 Oct.; Nash Pt from 28 Oct. to 15 Nov.; The Knap, Barry, on 1 Dec.; GOWER: Whiteford on 13 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 20 Oct.; three at Ginst Pt on 21 Nov.; PEMBROKE: St Davids Head and Martin's Haven on 15 Oct.; Strumble Head on 31 Oct.; two on Skokholm on 31 Oct. and one here on 10 Nov.; Fishguard on 21 Nov.; two in Porthgain West Quarry on 27 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Borth on 22 Oct.; Tanybwlch on 5-7 Nov. and two here on 8th; BRECON: Fan Brycheiniog on 25 Oct.; RADNOR: two on Black Mixen in Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Gelli Grin on 19 Nov.; CAERNARFON: two at Pontllyfni on 22 Oct.; Great Orme on 11 Nov. and two here on 25th; seven at Porth Ysgaden on 14 Nov.; Porthdinllaen GC on 21 Nov.; Llanbedrog on 26 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Holyhead breakwater on 1-12 Nov.; two at RSPB South Stack on 3 Nov.; nine over Pt Lynas on 9 Nov. and one here on 11th; two at Newborough Warren on 25 Nov.; two at Cemlyn in late Nov./early Dec.; FLINT: two at Gronant on 26 Nov. and one here on 18 Dec.

2020 GWENT: in the Tranch/Brynithel area on 28-30 Oct.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* BRAS YR YD

Rare visitor and former regular breeder, which possibly bred in 2020. WBRC: 27 individuals since 2000, but only two since 2010 away from Bettisfield.

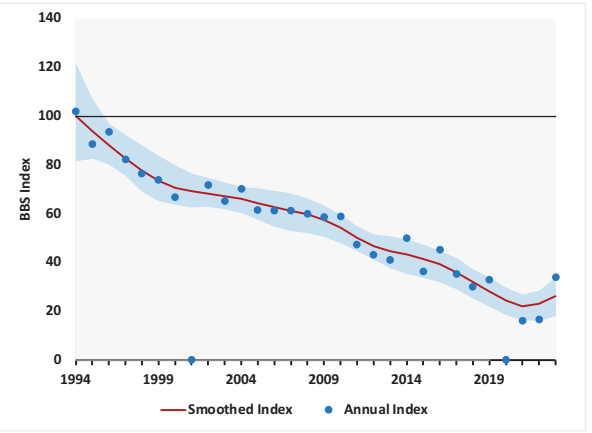
DENBIGH: two at Bettisfield on 29 July, a former breeding site; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 29 April.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* BRAS MELYN

Declining but patchily-distributed and locally fairly common resident (31,500 breeding territories). Wales Red listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	193	186
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding Bird Survey: Yellowhammer in Wales, 1994-2023



The Breeding Bird Survey index was, surprisingly, at its highest level since 2017 and double its value of 2022. Nonetheless, the long-term (1995-2022) trend is down 76%, making it one of four species with the unenviable moniker of having declined by more than three-quarters since 1995. Its absence from large parts of Wales means that Yellowhammer is now on the very limit of being tracked by the monitoring scheme. The BirdTrack reporting rate fell further, to a new low of just 0.5% of lists, and has fallen by 67% since 2013-15. The absence of spillover into gardens is evident from the BTO Garden BirdWatch recording rate, which again fell to its lowest rate ever at just 0.3% of gardens in 2023 (*cf*. 5% in 1995), and an annual peak of just 0.7% of gardens in April.

Breeding evidence. GWENT: probably bred at St David's Vale and St Mary's Vale, and possibly at Llanwenarth and Sugar Loaf; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Pant Norton and possibly at four other sites; GOWER: bred at Frog Moor; singing males at Goppa Hill and 10 sites on the Gower Peninsula (max. 7 at Penrice); CARMARTHEN: two pairs at Cors Blaen Cothi and one at Marros Mountain; possibly bred at a couple of sites below Llyn Brianne; PEMBROKE: Pembrokeshire Yellowhammer Recovery Group survey of 66 tetrads found breeding evidence in 31 (47%, compared to 64% of the same tetrads in 2008-12 and 97% in 1984-88) and estimated the county population was 103-106 territories (Haycock 2023); CEREDIGION: 1-2 at seven sites; BRECON: *Breconshire Bird Report* estimated min. 44 territories in the county, of which only one-third were in arable/mixed farming areas with the majority now on upland edge; RADNOR: bred at Rhogo, probably at Rhos-y-meirch and present at 30 other sites during the year; MONTGOMERY: bred at Garreg Ddu and possibly at 11 other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at four sites; CAERNARFON: at least two pairs probably bred at Mynythno and around Llyn Padarn; in Rhiw area, two in April, one in June and nine in Nov. suggest breeding; singles at five other sites; ANGLESEY: pair at Brynteg; male at former breeding site; DENBIGH: singles at four sites; DENBIGH/FLINT: 1-2 at six sites in the Clwydian Hills between Dyserth and Moel Famau.

Counts ≥10 additional to those above. PEMBROKE: 15 at Camrose on 29 Jan.; 10 at Hundleton on 30 Jan.; 10 near Gignog on 28 April; 15 at Hilton on 13 July; DENBIGH: 60 in a garden near Bodfari on 26 Feb.; FLINT: 18 at Pant-y-dulath, east of Rhuallt, on 17 April.

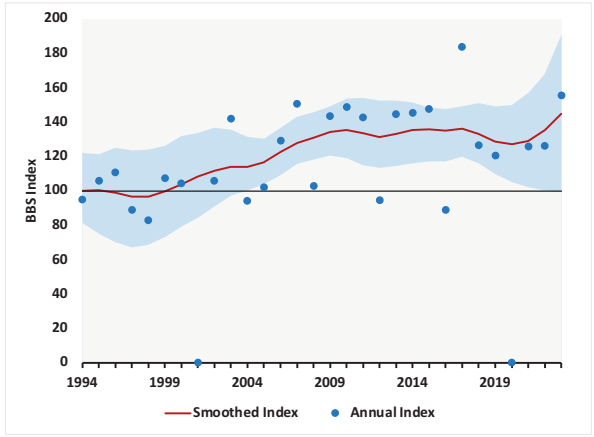
Passage. ANGLESEY: two at RSPB South Stack on 3 April and singles on 2 and 15 April, and 22 Oct. were the first at the site for many years.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* BRAS CYRS

Fairly common resident, mainly in damp habitats (17,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

	2022	2023
No of BirdTrack records	2074	2227
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%

Breeding Bird Survey: Reed Bunting in Wales, 1994-2023



Like Yellowhammer, this species lies on the lower limit of being recorded in sufficient Breeding Bird Survey squares to generate a country trend, hence the increasingly wide confidence intervals. Six consecutive years of above-average annual indices has produced positive Breeding Bird Survey values across all time periods, including the long-term of +35%. However, the year-round BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen 37% since 2013-15, suggesting fewer encounters during the winter. In the BTO Garden BirdWatch, both count size and recording rate have been lower this decade than in the previous one.

The only sites with comparable breeding data were on ANGLESEY: RSPB Valley Wetlands with 27 territories (*cf*. 25 in 2007), and RSPB Cors Ddyga with 43 territories (*cf*. 43 in 2017 and 33 in 2007). A survey of a site on Pen Llŷn, CAERNARFON, found 21 territories, stable over the last decade. However, it was the first year that the species did not breed on Skomer, PEMBROKE, since 1994 (max. 17 pairs in 1977). There were only four counts ≥20 reported across the whole country, in GWENT: 24, of which 18 fed together, at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 19 Jan.; GOWER: 32 at Rhossili on 25 Nov.; BRECON: 20 at Cefngwaunhynog on 6 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 roosted at Gwaith Powdwr on 27 Jan.

2020 GWENT, additional record: 20 roosted at Cold Harbour Pill on 16 Oct.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis* BRAS GYDDFWYN

Very rare vagrant from North America. BBRC: five previous records.

CAERNARFON: 2CY+ male ringed on Bardsey on 4 June.

SONG SPARROW *Melospiza melodia* BRAS PERSAIN

Extremely rare vagrant from North America. BBRC: one previous record, on Bardsey in 1970.

CAERNARFON: 2CY+ ringed on Bardsey on 9 May.

BOBOLINK *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* BOBOLINC

Very rare vagrant from North America. BBRC: three previous records.

PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 21 Sept., the third county record.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER *Mniotilta varia* TELOR BRITH

Extremely rare vagrant from North America. BBRC: one previous record, on Skomer in 1980.

CAERNARFON: three individuals, each caught and ringed on Bardsey, 1CY females on 21 and 23 Sept. and 1CY male from 27 Sept. to 1 Oct.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Setophaga magnolia* TELOR MAGNOLIA

Extremely rare vagrant from North America, not previously recorded in Wales.

GOWER: 1CY at Briton Ferry on 24-29 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 1CY at St Govan's Head on 20-26 Sept. These were the third and fourth British records.

Bay-breasted Warbler (Greg Morgan)

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Setophaga castanea* TELOR BRONWINAU

Extremely rare vagrant from North America, not previously recorded in Wales.

PEMBROKE: 1CY on Ramsey on 21-26 Sept. This was only the second British record.

CANADA WARBLER *Cardellina canadensis* TELOR CANADA

Extremely rare vagrant from North America, not previously recorded in Wales.

PEMBROKE: 1CY male at Elegug Stacks on 23-25 Sept. This was the first British record.

ESCAPES AND REINTRODUCTIONS

Species placed in this section do not form part of the Welsh List, but were reported to county recorders, eBird and BirdTrack.

- Category D: species that would otherwise appear in Category A except that there is reasonable doubt that they have occurred in a natural state. It should be seen as a 'holding' category with records eventually being placed in either A or E.
- Category E: introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining.
- Category R1: released in Wales, the UK or Europe for conservation purpose.

CACKLING GOOSE *Branta hutchinsii* GWYDD GLEGYROG
Category E. CARMARTHEN: two at Dryslwyn on 7 Jan.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* GWYDD BENRHESOG
Category E. FLINT: two at Connah's Quay NR on 31 Dec.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus* GWYDD FRECH
Category E. FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 28 Feb. and at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 25 March, associating with Pink-footed Geese.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* GWYDD YR EIRA
Category E. GOWER: Neath saltmarsh on 1 Jan.; ANGLESEY: three (one blue morph) over RSPB South Stack on 12 June.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* ALARCH WYDD
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: Roath Park on 22 Jan.; four on R.Taff, Cardiff, from Jan. to March; Parc Taf Bargoed throughout the year; GOWER: Fendrod Lake from 11 March to 22 June.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* GWYDD DALCENWEN FECHAN
Category D. FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 18 Feb.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* ALARCH DDU
Category E. The records below may relate to no more than five individuals.

GWENT: Caldicot Castle from 28 Nov. to 12 Dec. and two here on 17th; PEMBROKE: Caldey on several dates between 21 April and 26 June; CEREDIGION: Glandyfi on 20 Aug., presumed same as in MONTGOMERY at Cors Dyfi on 24 June and in late July/early Aug., and MEIRIONNYDD at Tywyn on 27 July; CAERNARFON: Aber Ogwen from 10 April to 6 May and 10-17 Sept., presumed same at Bangor on 29 April and Glan y Môr Elias on 28 Oct., and perhaps as ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga from 2 Jan. to 18 Feb. (two here on 5th) and 31 Oct.; Maenaddwyn on 13 Jan.; Llyn Dinam on 20 Jan.; Malltraeth Cob on 2 April; Inland Sea on 29 May and 25-29 July, 11-25 Nov. and 17 Dec.; Alaw est. on 11 June.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* ALARCH UTGANOL
GOWER: apparently paired with a Mute Swan at Neath on 18 Nov.

RADJAH SHELDUCK *Radjah radjah* HWYADEN FRAITH RAJA
Category E. CAERNARFON: two at Aberdaron on 28 Sept.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN
Category E. GWENT: two at Collister Pill on 6-7 July; GOWER: Weobley/Llanrhidian Marsh on 16-24 Feb.; DENBIGH: five on Clwyd est. from 5 Feb. to 16 March, four here from 29th to 4 April and one from 15 April to 5 May; FLINT: Shotwick Lake on 2 Jan.; five at Connah's Quay NR on 2 Feb. and 6 May; Gronant on 7 and 24 April.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* HWYADEN FWSG
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: up to three on Clydach Lakes throughout the year; GOWER: Fendrod Lake throughout the year; RADNOR: Llandrindod Lake on 16 Dec.; DENBIGH: two at Stry Las pool from April to July; FLINT: Buckley Common throughout the year.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* HWYADEN GRIBOG Y COED
Category E. GWENT: two at Ebbw Vale Festival Park on 17 March; E.GLAMORGAN: female on Hensol Lake on 21 May; DENBIGH: Fagl Lane GP on 19 March and various dates from 1 July to year end; Rhuthun on 30 May.
2020 GWENT, correction: record at Ebbw Vale Festival Park was six birds.

BLUE-BILLED TEAL *Spatula hottentota* CORHWYADEN FANNOG
Category E. DENBIGH: Clwyd est. on 16-18 Oct.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* HWYADEN GRIBGOCH
Records of naturalised birds are shown on p.38.
Escape. GOWER: female at Gnoll CP throughout the year.

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagris* IAR GINI HELMOG
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: up to 10 near Flemingston in Jan.-May and 14 in Nov./Dec.; DENBIGH: Lleweni on 7-9 Aug.

REEVES'S PHEASANT *Syrmaticus reevesii* FFESANT REEVES
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: Merthyr Tydfil on 5 Feb.; BRECON: male (and possibly a female) at Llanfrynach on 14 and 29 March; CAERNARFON: Felinheli on 15 April (reported in prior weeks).

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* FFESANT EURAID
Category E. FLINT: Connah's Quay NR from 28 Jan. to 16 March.

SILVER PHEASANT *Lophura nycthemera* FFESANT ARIAN
Category E. ANGLESEY: female at Cemaes Bay in Feb. and March.

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus* PAUN
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: St Mellons on 25 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: male and female at Lake Vyrnwy on 15 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Bangor on 18 Jan. and 24 Sept.; DENBIGH: Nilig on 15 Aug.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE *Alectoris chukar* PETRISEN SIWCAR
Category E. FLINT: one in a Holywell garden on 1 Nov. Evidence that this species is still being released occasionally, despite being on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act.

CRANE *Grus grus* GARAN
Category A and E. There were 53 records accepted as wild birds up to 2021, not including pairs (and chicks) that bred or attempted to breed in South Wales in 2015-19. The WBRC has decided that as with White Stork, unless birds are proven to be unringed, for the time being all records should be considered not proven of wild origin, as most will relate to the Great Crane Project reintroductions in southwest England.

CEREDIGION: Llyn Eiddwen on 2 April; CAERNARFON: two unringed birds over Bardsey and later over Llangybi on 26 May; two west over Little Orme on 3 June.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* CICONIA GWYN
Category A and E. There were 75 records accepted as wild birds (even though some may have been escapes) up to 2021. However, with a release programme now underway in southeast England, the WBRC has decided that as with Crane, unless birds are proven unringed, for now all records should be considered not proven of wild origin. GWENT: two over Grosmont on 25 Oct.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* ERYR EURAID
Category E. CEREDIGION: Cors Caron NNR on 7 July.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* ERYR MOR
See also p.146 for details of a presumed wild bird.

Category R1. Female G487 translocated to the Isle of Wight satellite-tracked south through GWENT on 21 March, along the coast from Newport to Cardiff, E.GLAMORGAN, then northwest to roost in the Glyncorrwg and Rhigos mountains. The following day, she continued west to Gorseinon and through the GOWER peninsula, before crossing the mouth of the Burry Inlet to roost in Pembrey Forest, CARMARTHEN. On 23rd, she returned east and remained in the hills of northern E.GLAMORGAN and south BRECON until 27th, roosting in the Mynydd-y-glog mountains, and left Wales to the east on 28th; 3CY female G542, fledged on the Isle of Wight in 2021, on ANGLESEY from 25 June to 3 July, seen at Llanbadrig on 26th, Llanlleiana on 27th, Cemlyn on 29th and 1st, and Llyn Llywenan on 1 July, having previously passed unreported through FLINT, crossing the mouth of the Dee est. and inland to St Asaph on 23 June.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* GWALCH HARRIS
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: Roath Park throughout 2023, for its third year; BRECON: Llanstephan on 21 Oct.; falconer recaught one in Brecon on 9 Dec.; DENBIGH: near Llansilin on 12 Jan. and 6 Feb.

EAGLE OWL *sp. Bubo sp.* ERYRDYLLUAN SP.
Category E. PEMBROKE: Cresswell Quay on 13 May; MEIRIONNYDD: near Bala on 25 Nov.

SAKER FALCON *Falco cherrug* HEBOG SAKER
Category E. PEMBROKE: Sprinkle Pill on 5 Feb.

GYR FALCON *Falco rusticolus* HEBOG Y GOGLEDD
Category E. 2022 DENBIGH: Llyn Brenig on 11 Sept.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula eupatria* PARACIT MAWR
Category E. BRECON: on feeder at Lower Chapel on 8 April.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* PARACIT TORCHOG
Category E, as there is no evidence that the population in Wales is self-sustaining nor that records in Wales are from a self-sustaining population elsewhere. This situation may well change, and birders and county recorders are encouraged to report all sightings (see Facey and Vafidis 2020).

	2022	*2023*
No of BirdTrack records	25	40
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The reporting rate for the species in the BTO Garden BirdWatch is low, reflecting the limited geographic spread of the species, but at 0.6% of gardens in April and July it was three times higher than the average peak of the previous five years.

GWENT: Newport on 10 Jan.; Caldicot Castle on 24 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: in Cardiff, at Victoria Park on 2 Jan.; at Parc Tredelerch on 26 Jan., two here on 23 April and singles on 12 May, 24-27 July, 3 Sept. and 5 Nov.; up to five, including a mating pair, at New Road Park in Jan.-Feb., one here in March; two in Cardiff Bay on 21 Feb.; two in Pontprennau on 6 March; Canton on 16 Aug.; and Roath Park on 21 Dec.; elsewhere, Bridgend on 29 June; GOWER: up to five at Morriston Park in Jan. to Sept., (max. five on 1 July); CARMARTHEN: Pinged on 9 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Llandudno Junction on 11 Dec.; ANGLESEY: long-staying bird around Benllech in Feb./March; Plas Newydd on 22 May; DENBIGH: Overton Bridge on 28 Feb.; FLINT: three at Llanasa on 14 Jan.; Connah's Quay on 16 April; Rhydymwyn on 20 April; regular in Gronant through the year (max. nine on 9 July).

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulatus* BYJERIGAR
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: Robertstown on 8 Aug.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE *Quiscalus mexicanus* GREGL GYNFFONFAWR
Category E. PEMBROKE: Nolton Haven on 25-29 Oct., presumed ship-assisted. mtDNA analysis determined that it was either *Q.m. obscurus, mexicanus* or *monsoni,* which occur around the Gulf of Mexico and not the Pacific coast (Martin Collinson, in litt.).

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Redstart (Lee Barber)

Ringing and nest recording report for Wales 2023

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Ringing trends

The total number of birds ringed in 2023 was 3700 fewer than in 2022, however both years were lower than the recent peak in 2018 of 80,882 birds. The drop in 2023, was a result of fewer full-grown birds being ringed, but there was an increase in pulli (chicks) ringed during this time. As with the number of full-grown birds ringed, the number of recaptures also dropped to similar levels seen in 2021. Recaptures, which also cover resightings, are important as these data provide details on bird movements and longevity.

Table 1. Numbers of full-grown birds and pulli ringed and recaptured each year, 2013-23.

Year	*Full-grown*	*Pulli*	*Total*	*Re-encounters*
2023	54,777	19,391	74,168	22,814
2022	59,008	18,860	77,868	25,836
2021	56,281	17,072	73,353	22,056
2020	54,476	5,938	60,414	19,742
2019	57,726	22,557	80,283	22,176
2018	60,455	20,427	80,882	22,631
2017	58,196	20,296	78,492	19,745
2016	57,187	18,953	76,140	20,380
2015	52,971	21,231	74,202	17,764
2014	53,917	19,633	73,550	15,646
2013	41,578	15,813	57,391	12,840
Total	**606,572**	**200,171**	**806,743**	**221,630**

Following three British & Irish longevity records broken in Wales in 2022, for Kittiwake, Chough and House Sparrow, only one longevity record was surpassed in 2023. Having been resighted in 2023, the same Chough has now extended the longevity record for this species to 25y 0m 11d.

In line with the whole of Britain & Ireland, Blue Tit (8275) was the most ringed species in Wales in 2023. This rarely changes, but the differences between years can provide greater insight into annual adult survival and productivity for each species. There was a slight decrease in the number of Blue Tit pulli ringed in 2023, but there was an increase in the number of adults ringed, resulting in an overall increase in the number of Blue Tit ringed compared to 2022. The number of Pied Flycatcher ringed increased by a similar amount to Blue Tit but this was driven by an increase in the number of pulli ringed. More effort appears to have been put into ringing Manx Shearwaters in 2023, with 4543 birds ringed, an increase of 2055 on the previous year, mainly adults. After these, the most ringed species were Great Tit (3831), Blackcap (3204), Goldfinch (3038), Chiffchaff (2555) and Siskin (2506). The last of these had been the third most numerous species ringed in 2022, so decreased by the largest amount.

Unfortunately, outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) during 2023 were particularly evident in colonies of Arctic and Common Tern as well as in Black-headed Gull, Guillemot and Razorbill colonies. Because testing capacity was limited, many of the birds reported were presumed to have HPAI, although the virus was confirmed only in Razorbill in the selected recoveries below.

Pied Flycatcher is one of the key species in Wales that is studied annually, providing vital productivity information by ringing the pulli and recording details for the Nest Record Scheme (**bto.org/nrs**). This year

5764 Pied Flycatcher pulli were ringed, compared to the next highest of 2669 Blue Tit pulli. Great Tit (1894) and Herring Gull (896) pulli were also ringed in good numbers, however only one Black-headed Gull pullus was ringed, which occupied the ranking above Herring Gull in 2022, due to HPAI at the major colonies. Ringing pulli is useful scientifically as the age and exact location of the bird is known, which can form a deeper understanding of population dynamics. These pulli records are often associated with a record to the BTO Nest Record Scheme, enriching further the information gained.

It is hard to differentiate between changes in bird demography and ringer effort, as is evident in Table 1, because an increase in ringer effort usually means more birds are ringed. Two BTO schemes try to standardise 'effort', and produce information on adult survival, productivity and abundance. These are the Constant Effort Site (CES) and Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS). The number of registered CES in Wales remained stable at five in 2023. Ideally 15 standard CE Sites are needed to produce Wales-specific population trends, so if Welsh ringers know of sites that catch 200-300 birds between May and the end of August, the BTO would like to hear of them (**ces@bto.org**). There is financial support from the BTO to all CES and RAS projects, which reflects their high data value. Since 2020, Garden CES - a pilot scheme created during COVID - aims to increase our understanding of population change in urban environments. There are two such projects running in Wales.

Wales does very well for the number of RAS studies considering the relatively modest number of ringers. There were 29 RAS studies active in 2023 (28 in 2022), for Pied Flycatcher (eight), Dipper (two), Reed Warbler (two), House Sparrow (two) and single studies of Arctic Tern, Chough, Common Tern, Curlew, Guillemot, Hawfinch, Jackdaw, Kittiwake, Linnet (new), Mute Swan, Razorbill, Reed Bunting, Shag, Siskin and Wheatear. There is still a lot of opportunity for more RAS projects, where recaptures of birds ringed in previous RAS seasons should be around 30-50 individuals. Many species are suitable for a RAS but Barn Owl, Dipper, Mute Swan, Starling, Swallow, Pied Flycatcher, House Sparrow and Manx Shearwater fit particularly well.

Note that the order of birds shown in Tables 2 and 3 differs from the Systematic List.

Table 2. Numbers of pulli and fully-grown birds of each species ringed in 2023 compared to 2022, and the number recaptured or identified by a colour ring. Totals are derived from the BTO ringing database, which also populates the Online Ringing Report: **bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports**

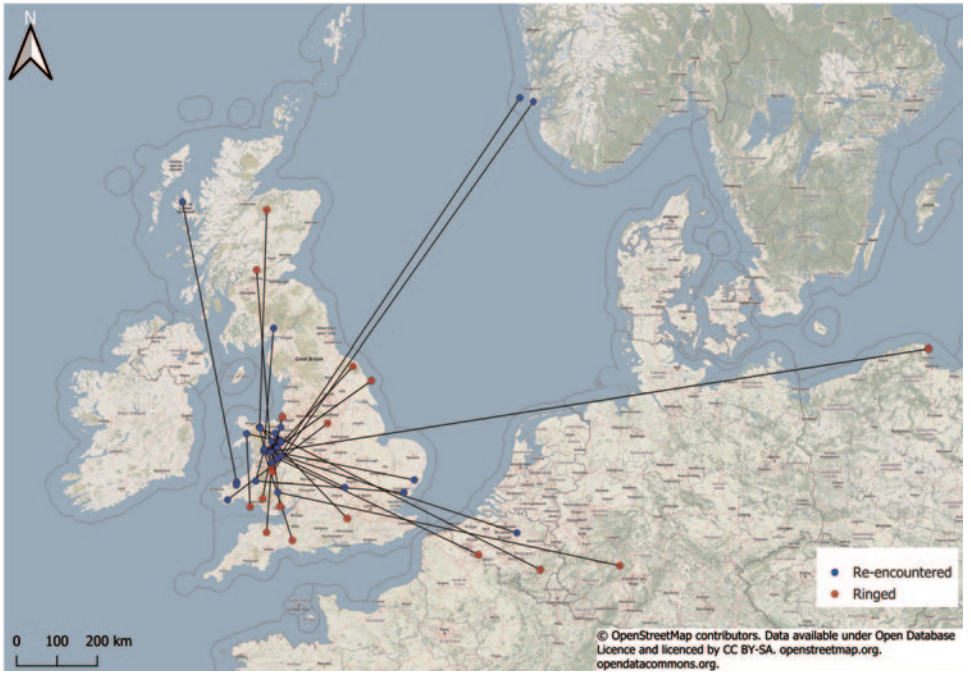
	2022				2023				
Species	*Pulli*	*Fully-grown*	*Total 2022*	*Retrap/ resighting*	*Pulli*	*Fully-grown*	*Total 2023*	*Retrap/ resighting*	*Total difference*
Canada Goose	0	1	1	11	0	1	1	8	0
Barnacle Goose	0	9	9	42	0	0	0	0	-9
Greylag Goose	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	5	-2
White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Whooper Swan	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	-2
Mute Swan	65	23	88	103	68	13	81	116	-7
Shelduck	0	4	4	4	0	0	0	19	-4
Mandarin Duck	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	1
Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2
Mallard	0	22	22	2	0	7	7	1	-15
Teal	0	5	5	4	0	12	12	1	7
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	1
Goosander	0	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	-5
Quail	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	-4

	2022				2023				
Species	*Pulli*	*Fully-grown*	*Total 2022*	*Retrap/ resighting*	*Pulli*	*Fully-grown*	*Total 2023*	*Retrap/ resighting*	*Total difference*
Storm Petrel	32	573	605	119	65	624	689	65	84
Fulmar	0	5	5	0	5	0	5	0	0
Manx Shearwater	310	2178	2488	1854	552	3991	4543	2522	2055
Little Grebe	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	-4
Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Grey Heron	5	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	-4
Great White Egret	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0
Little Egret	5	11	16	17	25	0	25	28	9
Gannet	0	11	11	9	0	52	52	4	41
Shag	506	12	518	220	493	21	514	223	-4
Cormorant	147	0	147	21	392	0	392	26	245
Osprey	17	0	17	4	21	0	21	9	4
Honey-buzzard	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Sparrowhawk	0	24	24	5	0	35	35	8	11
Goshawk	11	0	11	0	6	2	8	3	-3
Hen Harrier	19	0	19	1	28	0	28	0	9
Red Kite	9	3	12	9	11	0	11	3	-1
Buzzard	2	11	13	3	3	3	6	6	-7
Water Rail	0	6	6	0	0	6	6	2	0
Moorhen	0	13	13	3	3	19	22	6	9
Coot	2	14	16	2	0	4	4	0	-12
Oystercatcher	17	289	306	142	15	492	507	238	201
Avocet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Lapwing	7	21	28	0	30	9	39	2	11
Golden Plover	0	43	43	9	0	45	45	3	2
Grey Plover	0	4	4	1	0	1	1	3	-3
Ringed Plover	16	143	159	124	21	214	235	76	76
Little Ringed Plover	6	0	6	0	15	0	15	0	9
Whimbrel	0	40	40	2	0	43	43	4	3
Dotterel	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	4
Curlew	21	100	121	284	47	144	191	218	70
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	6	6	0	0	10	10	2	4
Black-tailed Godwit	0	5	5	0	0	2	2	2	-3
Turnstone	0	53	53	44	0	128	128	97	75
Knot	0	25	25	0	0	98	98	16	73
Ruff	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Curlew Sandpiper	0	14	14	0	0	7	7	1	-7
Sanderling	0	7	7	0	0	4	4	0	-3
Dunlin	0	3287	3287	790	0	1322	1322	216	-1965
Purple Sandpiper	0	6	6	3	0	11	11	0	5
Little Stint	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	-3
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	-1
Woodcock	0	412	412	57	0	505	505	38	93
Jack Snipe	0	35	35	6	0	35	35	3	0
Snipe	0	94	94	4	0	141	141	6	47

	2022				2023				
Species	Pulli	Fully-grown	Total 2022	Retrap/ resighting	Pulli	Fully-grown	Total 2023	Retrap/ resighting	Total difference
Common Sandpiper	0	4	4	0	2	5	7	0	3
Green Sandpiper	0	1	1	1	0	5	5	3	4
Redshank	0	448	448	137	0	328	328	65	-120
Greenshank	0	3	3	0	0	4	4	1	1
Kittiwake	6	31	37	115	45	23	68	43	31
Black-headed Gull	838	0	838	102	0	1	1	36	-837
Mediterranean Gull	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	32	0
Great Black-backed Gull	163	6	169	131	127	6	133	124	-36
Common Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Herring Gull	573	58	631	157	896	52	948	174	317
Lesser Black-backed Gull	576	261	837	333	764	31	795	46	-42
Sandwich Tern	123	1	124	173	0	6	6	23	-118
Little Tern	253	8	261	641	174	7	181	155	-80
Common Tern	365	15	380	133	0	13	13	251	-367
Arctic Tern	500	20	520	135	0	22	22	100	-498
Guillemot	719	48	767	44	593	171	764	153	-3
Razorbill	390	85	475	273	495	204	699	262	224
Black Guillemot	3	2	5	0	6	5	11	0	6
Puffin	104	185	289	373	130	120	250	252	-39
Stock Dove	38	8	46	1	26	18	44	3	-2
Woodpigeon	29	34	63	12	13	55	68	12	5
Collared Dove	1	53	54	7	1	39	40	4	-14
Cuckoo	0	6	6	0	0	5	5	1	-1
Barn Owl	600	43	643	60	770	48	818	54	175
Tawny Owl	32	11	43	3	56	14	70	6	27
Little Owl	1	2	3	0	3	0	3	0	0
Long-eared Owl	4	3	7	1	6	1	7	2	0
Short-eared Owl	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	5
Nightjar	56	84	140	63	24	30	54	29	-86
Swift	2	3	5	0	3	2	5	0	0
Hoopoe	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Kingfisher	0	50	50	21	0	28	28	17	-22
Wryneck	0	2	2	0	0	4	4	0	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	168	168	122	0	134	134	107	-34
Green Woodpecker	0	4	4	0	0	4	4	1	0
Kestrel	74	1	75	2	116	1	117	1	42
Merlin	5	0	5	0	3	0	3	0	-2
Hobby	12	1	13	0	0	0	0	1	-13
Peregrine	12	1	13	0	12	0	12	2	-1
Alder Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Golden Oriole	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Red-backed Shrike	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Jay	0	60	60	17	0	14	14	4	-46
Magpie	7	41	48	13	5	43	48	9	0
Chough	173	25	198	2538	191	29	220	2929	22

	2022				2023				
Species	Pulli	Fully-grown	Total 2022	Retrap/ resighting	Pulli	Fully-grown	Total 2023	Retrap/ resighting	Total difference
Jackdaw	67	119	186	177	68	151	219	307	33
Rook	0	53	53	10	16	4	20	1	-33
Carrion Crow	15	6	21	2	5	18	23	11	2
Raven	4	3	7	0	5	1	6	2	-1
Waxwing	0	0	0	0	0	35	35	41	35
Coal Tit	57	404	461	350	174	472	646	243	185
Marsh Tit	19	11	30	18	6	13	19	6	-11
Willow Tit	9	38	47	13	0	22	22	6	-25
Blue Tit	2881	4670	7551	2510	2669	5606	8275	2529	724
Great Tit	1435	1722	3157	1317	1894	1937	3831	1183	674
Skylark	7	76	83	2	7	83	90	1	7
Sand Martin	0	327	327	0	15	326	341	3	14
Swallow	384	1402	1786	41	520	1798	2318	46	532
House Martin	25	311	336	10	12	116	128	9	-208
Cetti's Warbler	0	201	201	113	0	255	255	169	54
Long-tailed Tit	0	926	926	425	0	1030	1030	418	104
Willow Warbler	17	1963	1980	171	12	1516	1528	176	-452
Chiffchaff	0	2434	2434	295	1	2554	2555	317	121
Western Bonelli's Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Wood Warbler	53	10	63	16	37	5	42	11	-21
Yellow-browed Warbler	0	5	5	0	0	5	5	0	0
Pallas's Warbler	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Aquatic Warbler	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Sedge Warbler	4	1621	1625	240	0	1036	1036	174	-589
Reed Warbler	2	1394	1396	377	6	1018	1024	336	-372
Marsh Warbler	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Melodious Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Icterine Warbler	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Grasshopper Warbler	0	65	65	5	0	59	59	6	-6
Blackcap	2	2608	2610	172	0	3204	3204	205	594
Barred Warbler	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Garden Warbler	4	123	127	11	6	152	158	17	31
Lesser Whitethroat	0	39	39	4	0	32	32	12	-7
Whitethroat	0	349	349	68	0	390	390	75	41
Subalpine Warbler	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Dartford Warbler	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Firecrest	0	65	65	5	0	48	48	11	-17
Goldcrest	0	1493	1493	230	0	1959	1959	372	466
Wren	17	958	975	408	41	839	880	388	-95
Nuthatch	236	127	363	199	256	86	342	120	-21
Treecreeper	10	130	140	27	4	86	90	27	-50
Starling	11	1242	1253	144	4	1245	1249	226	-4
Blackbird	105	1178	1283	641	158	950	1108	501	-175
Fieldfare	0	107	107	1	0	111	111	0	4
Redwing	0	2196	2196	3	0	2303	2303	10	107

	2022				2023				
Species	Pulli	Fully-grown	Total 2022	Retrap/ resighting	Pulli	Fully-grown	Total 2023	Retrap/ resighting	Total difference
Song Thrush	70	320	390	49	54	289	343	36	-47
Mistle Thrush	0	10	10	0	3	9	12	0	2
Spotted Flycatcher	16	40	56	2	28	101	129	3	73
Robin	62	1442	1504	1016	95	1225	1320	832	-184
Red-flanked Bluetail	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Red-breasted Flycatcher	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Pied Flycatcher	5064	728	5792	736	5764	758	6522	683	730
Black Redstart	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	-7
Redstart	381	58	439	13	398	70	468	11	29
Whinchat	17	3	20	0	9	10	19	0	-1
Stonechat	39	104	143	16	19	74	93	7	-50
Wheatear	24	146	170	87	26	163	189	120	19
Dipper	594	111	705	209	514	72	586	126	-119
House Sparrow	78	1649	1727	955	120	984	1104	434	-623
Tree Sparrow	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Dunnock	18	914	932	865	3	746	749	605	-183
Western Yellow Wagtail	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Grey Wagtail	142	43	185	2	83	30	113	1	-72
Pied Wagtail	62	101	163	18	51	118	169	63	6
White Wagtail	0	20	20	0	0	61	61	0	41
Meadow Pipit	11	702	713	29	24	1117	1141	115	428
Tree Pipit	39	63	102	0	7	163	170	0	68
Water Pipit	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Rock Pipit	3	151	154	41	0	261	261	132	107
Chaffinch	6	1753	1759	280	2	1455	1457	176	-302
Brambling	0	142	142	3	0	44	44	1	-98
Hawfinch	0	281	281	230	0	80	80	33	-201
Bullfinch	4	432	436	172	0	398	398	185	-38
Common Rosefinch	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	1
Greenfinch	0	1169	1169	201	0	871	871	143	-298
Twite	0	16	16	16	0	0	0	0	-16
Linnet	0	696	696	205	0	786	786	411	90
Redpoll	0	698	698	158	0	213	213	29	-485
Common Crossbill	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Goldfinch	3	3594	3597	1257	13	3025	3038	874	-559
Siskin	0	5670	5670	1578	0	2506	2506	801	-3164
Yellowhammer	0	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	-5
Cirl Bunting	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Reed Bunting	4	242	246	131	0	178	178	138	-68
White-throated Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Black-and-white Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3
Totals	**18860**	**59008**	**77868**	**25851**	**19391**	**54777**	**74168**	**22812**	**-3700**


N
Re-encountered
Ringed
0 100 200 km
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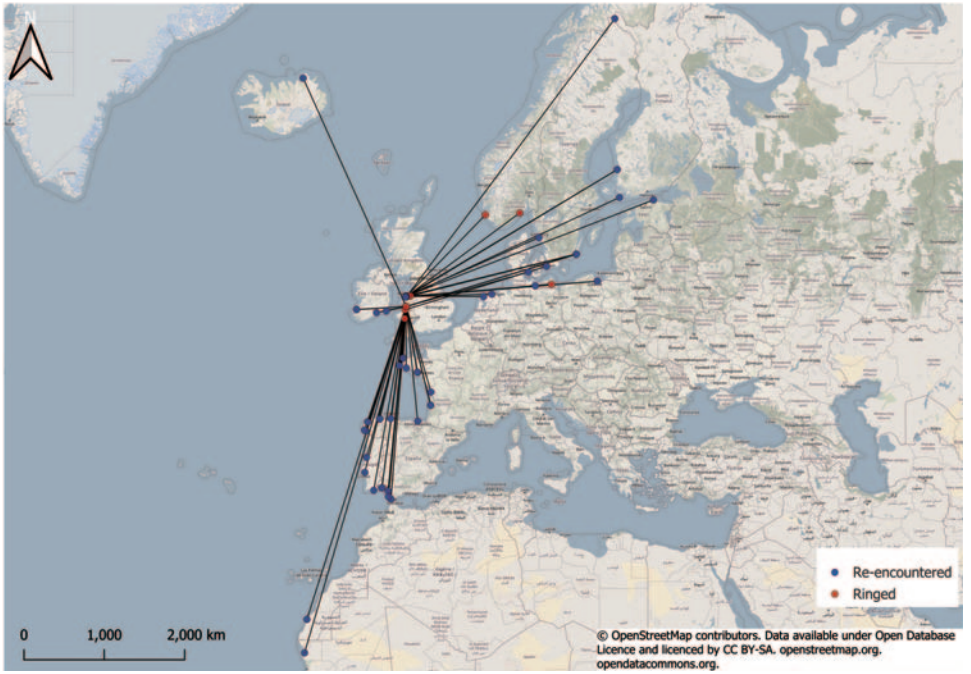
Ringing and re-encounter locations of all Siskin with movements to/from Wales in 2023


N
Re-encountered
Ringed
0 1,000 2,000 km
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Ringing and re-encounter locations of all Dunlin with movements to/from Wales in 2023

2023 selected recoveries

Below is a small selection of recoveries that stand out from the 23,932 re-encounters (recaptures, resightings or birds found dead) in 2023. Reports of note involve long distances travelled, unusual species or longevity. Ringed birds are most likely to be found by ringers, but reports from non-ringers are also very important, particularly in areas less covered by ringers. Rings and colour rings can also be read on live birds by members of the public, helping to 'fill the gap' of the bird's life history. To report a ringed bird, go to **ring.ac**; you will receive details of the bird including where and when the bird was ringed.

Manx Shearwater (FR99053) Nestling
09-02-1985 Bardsey, Caernarfonshire
10-06-2018 Bardsey, Caernarfonshire
01-07-2023 Bardsey, Caernarfonshire
0 km 37y 9m 29d Caught by ringer. Current longevity record 50yr 11m 21d

Great White Egret (1518752) Nestling
29/04/2022 Confidential site, Somerset
24/07/2022 Confidential site, Yorkshire and The Humber. Four times
04/08/2022 Langwith House, Yorkshire and The Humber
05/08/2022 Nosterfield Quarry Reedbed, Yorkshire and The Humber
06/08/2022 Staveley Nature Reserve, Yorkshire and The Humber
07/08/2022 Nosterfield Quarry Reedbed, Yorkshire and The Humber
09/08/2022 Langwith House, Yorkshire and The Humber (also 14/08/2022)
18/08/2022 Seafield Pond, Dunbar, East Lothian
19/08/2022 Druridge Pools Reserve, Northumberland
13/09/2022 RSPB Ynys-hir, Ceredigion
23/09/2022 Littlethorpe, Yorkshire and The Humber
26/09/2022 Ripon City Wetlands, Yorkshire and The Humber
03/10/2022 Bellflask Quarry, Yorkshire and The Humber
31/12/2022 Braithwaite, Doncaster, Yorkshire and The Humber (until 31/01/23)
05/06/2023 Confidential site, West Midlands
09/06/2023 Newport Wetland Reserve, Gwent
20/08/2023 Bellmoor Lake, Idle Valley, Nottinghamshire
19/10/2023 Carr Top Farm, Yorkshire and The Humber
19/10/2023 Staveley Nature Reserve, Yorkshire and The Humber
345 km NNE 1y 5m 20d Colour ring sighting

Red Kite (GF74106) Nestling
09/06/1996 near Llandovery, Carmarthenshire
17/04/2023 Penrhos, Ystradgynlais, Breconshire
24/07/2023 Penrhos, Ystradgynlais, Breconshire
20 km 27y 1m 15d Colour ring sighting

Coot (GR03888) Adult
20/11/2011 Cosmeston Lakes, near Penarth, Eastern Glamorgan
29/11/2011 Cosmeston Lakes, near Penarth, Eastern Glamorgan
15/05/2023 Linlithgow Loch, West Lothian
506 km N 11y 5m 25d Colour ring sighting

Oystercatcher (FH67663) Adult
01/12/2013 Pen-y-Parc, Beaumaris, Anglesey
15/02/2015 near Beaumaris, Anglesey
16/11/2019 Pen-y-Parc, Beaumaris, Anglesey
06/07/2023 Vágar Airport, Lufthavn, Sørvåg, Streymoy, **Faroe Islands 62°2'N 7°16'W**
995 km N 9y 7m 5d Shot to prevent air-strike

Golden Plover (DK38612) Adult
08/01/2013 Brondre Fach, Radnorshire
14/07/2023 Víkarbyrgi, Suduroy, **Faroe Islands 61°25'N 6°43'W**
1027 km N 10y 6m 6d Long dead, leg only

Ringed Plover (NV19321) Second year male
20/08/2023 Llanfairfechan, Caernarfonshire
21/08/2023 Teifi Estuary, near St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire
136 km SSW. 0y 0m 1d Colour ring sighting

Whimbrel (ST287421) Nestling
17/06/2013 Kemijarvi, Rovaniemi, **Finland 66°40'N 28°0'E**
01/07/2023 Morfa Aber, Bangor, Caernarfonshire
2278 km SW 10y 0m 14d Colour ring sighting. Second from Finland

Whimbrel (EY80985) Adult
25/04/2015 Llansantffraed, Llanon, Ceredigion
02/02/2023 Sine Saloum, North Toubacouta, **Senegal 13°51'N 16°0'W**
4400 km SSW 7y 9m 8d Colour ring sighting. Third to Senegal

Dunlin (NB30553) First year
08/09/2017 Berges Island, Whiteford, Gower
02/04/2023 Ilha da Murraceira, Coimbra, Coimbra, **Portugal 40°7'N 8°49'W**
1329 km SSW 5y 6m 25d Ring and leg found in a Short-eared Owl pellet

Dunlin (BY04563) Adult
22/01/2022 near Beaumaris, Anglesey
12/07/2023 Harju maakond, Kuusalu vald, Pärispea kü, **Estonia 59°40N 25°40 E**
1956 km ENE. 1y 5m 20d Metal ring read. Fifth to Estonia

Dunlin (BY09474) First year
29/08/2022 Ynyslas, Borth, Ceredigion
28/03/2023 Dakhla, **Western Sahara 23°38'N 15°59'W**
3367 km SSW. 0y 6m 27d Colour ring sighting. Fourth to Western Sahara

Dunlin (BY09880) First year
15/09/2023 Ynyslas, Borth, Ceredigion
17/09/2023 Laguna de Baldaio, Carballo, A Coruña, **Spain 43°17'N 8°40'W**
1,082 km SSW. 0y 0m 2d Colour ring sighting

Woodcock (ES54490) Adult
16/11/2021 Středočeský kraj a Praha, Prague, **Czechia 50°2'N 14°22'E**
30/01/2023 Llangynog, Montgomeryshire
1267 km SE 1y 2m 14d Shot. Third from Czechia

Greenshank (DA58061) First year
06/08/2023 Revtangen, Klepp, Rogaland, **Norway 58°43'N 5°30'E**
19/08/2023 St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire
978 km NNE 0y 0m 13d Colour ring sighting. Fourth from Norway

Black-headed Gull (ER48926) First year
30/07/1991 near Hempsted, Gloucestershire
24/05/2016 Piecky: stawy, Warminsko-Mazurskie, **Poland 53°45'N 21°19'E**
01/03/2017 Cardiff Bay, Eastern Glamorgan
30/11/2017 Cardiff Bay, Eastern Glamorgan
31/12/2020 Cardiff Bay, Eastern Glamorgan
27/01/2021 Cardiff Bay, Eastern Glamorgan (also 12/02/2021)
24/12/2021 Cardiff Bay, Eastern Glamorgan
05/03/2023 Cardiff Bay, Eastern Glamorgan (also 06/03/2023)
75 km SW 31y 7m 4d Colour ring sighting. Longevity record currently 33y 10m 9d

Black-headed Gull (EA15198) Nestling
15/07/2018 Shotton, Flintshire
28/02/2023 Dudley, West Midlands
100 km SE 4y 7m 13d Fresh dead, found in guttering of house

Little Tern (NV81285) Nestling
22/06/1997 near Gronant, Flintshire
10/07/2018 near Gronant, Flintshire (also 22/07/2018)
01/06/2021 near Gronant, Flintshire
03/06/2022 near Gronant, Flintshire (also 03/06/2022)
26/05/2023 near Gronant, Flintshire
0 km 25y 11m 4d Colour ring sighting. Longevity record currently 27y 7 d

Razorbill (K39560) Adult
08/07/2016 Puffin Island, Anglesey
04/07/2023 Formby, Merseyside
67 km ENE 6y 11m 26d Fresh dead, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Barn Owl (GR54203) Nestling
04/06/2012 Stanley Green, Whixall, Shropshire
19/07/2023 Bronington, Denbighshire
14 km NW 19/07/2023 Freshly dead road casualty, with a dead Buzzard 300m away.

Chough (EY80630) Nestling
18/05/1998 Confidential site, Anglesey
31/05/2014 Confidential site, Anglesey
14/05/2018 North Anglesey coast
03/05/2019 North Anglesey coast (also 14/05/2019)
27/04/2021 North Anglesey coast (also 06/06/2021 and 02/08/2021)
13/04/2022 North Anglesey coast
20/06/2022 Bull Bay/Porth Llechog, Anglesey
14/04/2023 North Anglesey coast (also 29/05/2023)
4 km NWN 25y 0m 11d Colour ring sighting.
New British & Irish longevity record (previously 23y 10m 26d in 2022)

Skylark (TT57493) Fully grown
08/10/2014 Fron Top, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire
22/01/2015 Gwenlas, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire
03/12/2015 Gwenlas, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire
06/02/2017 Gwenlas, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire (also 04/03/2017)
18/02/2018 Gwenlas, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire
15/03/2023 Gwenlas, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire
0 km 8y 5m 7d Caught by ringer. Longevity record currently 9y 10d

Cetti's Warbler (AJV3954) Fully grown
10/09/2022 Newport Wetlands, Uskmouth, Gwent
09/10/2023 Barcote Farm, Bampton, Oxfordshire
101 km E 1y 0m 29d Caught by ringer

Aquatic Warbler (ALY2028) First year
13/08/2022 Newport Wetlands, Uskmouth, Gwent
02/07/2023 Bierbranski Park Narodowny, Brzeziny, Trzcianne, Podlaskie, **Poland 53°16'N 22°33'E**
1740 km E 0y 10m 19d Caught by ringer. First to Poland

Goldcrest (LXP082) First year
09/10/2021 Bryn-Eglwys Quarry, near Abergynolwyn, Meirionnydd
14/01/2023 Tregarth, Caernarfonshire
62 km N 1y 3m 5d Killed by cat.

Starling (XN02530) Adult
23/02/1982 Brynsiencyn, Anglesey
15/10/2023 Koudum, Friesland, **The Netherlands 52°53'N 5°27'E**
649 km N 41y 7m 22d Ring only found

Starling (RA57175) First year
20/09/1985 Clytha, Raglan, Gwent
02/07/2023 Llanvihangel-on-Usk, Gwent
3 km W 37y 9m 12d Ring only found by metal detector

Robin (AYP8249) First year
09/09/2021 Nocton Fen, Lincolnshire
22/12/2022 Nocton Fen, Lincolnshire
08/03/2023 Langstone, Gwent
244 km SW 1y 5m 27d Metal ring read

White Wagtail (AAZ6729) Second year
04/04/2023 Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion
17/08/2023 Laugarvatn, Arnes, Árnessýsla, Iceland 64°13'N 20°43'W
1639 km NNW. 0y 4m 13d Caught by ringer

Goldfinch (AX03594) First year
17/11/2008 Skyum, Thisted, Viborg, **Denmark 56°49'N 8°34'E**
18/02/2023 Llwynmawr, Denbighshire
867 km WSW. 14y 3m 1d Caught by ringer. First from Denmark

It takes several years to learn to be a ringer, as the welfare of the bird is paramount and I am grateful to all the ringers who ringed and recaptured birds in Wales, including those who submitted over 100 records each (in order of the number of records from the greatest first): Bardsey BO, Teifi RG, Gower RG, Skokholm RG, Mid Wales RG, Pembrokeshire RG, Spence & Brenchley, SCAN RG, M Haigh, Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, Llangorse RG, SG Dodd, Kenfig RG, P Roughley, Merseyside Ringing, Cardiff RG, Fledgemore Nest Recording Group, JM Baron, PJ Belman, K Jones, Dr S J Tyler, Dr M J Wood, Goldcliff RG, Belvide RG, DJ Stanyard, A Stratford, WD Hall, East Dales RG, LJ Barber and RE Barber, Havard and Sloan, I Beggs, JMS Lewis, Flat Holm RG, Prof TR Birkhead, M Turner, G Roberts, D Anning, JA Lawton Roberts, Dr I P Vaughan, AA Robinson, Dr FM Slater, LV Gregory, J Richards, PJ Rock, A Lowe and DG Coker.

Nest Record Scheme

The Nest Record Scheme (NRS) records the progress of an individual nesting attempt and provides vital information on how many fledglings are produced. Linked with environmental data, this can help to identify the causes of population declines. For example, the timing of breeding of many species now starts earlier than it did in the 1960s, as a result of climate change. No licence is needed to be a nest recorder and those who do follow a code of conduct to ensure that recording this information is as safe as possible for the birds. Being a nest recorder gives a greater understanding of where birds nest, the habitats they prefer and bird behaviour.

From a low point in recent years, when the NRS received 2636 nest records in 2009, there has been a gradual annual increase in the number and diversity of species of nest records submitted. The 6086 records in 2023 was the highest total submitted in recent years.

With increases in nest box monitoring and species-specific projects, recording in Wales is going from strength to strength. In 2023, Blue Tit was the most nest-recorded species in Wales (1591), followed by Pied Flycatcher (1127), Great Tit (854), Little Tern (322) and Barn Owl (238). There was an increase in the number submitted in 2023 compared to 2022 for Great Tit (+191), Pied Flycatcher (+161), Blue Tit (+81) and Nuthatch (+40). Kittiwake had the greatest reduction in the number of nest records compared to the previous year, by 147, however the previous report stated that there was a large increase in nest records in 2022, so this is a return to the 10-year average.

Every nest record contributes to our knowledge of bird productivity, especially when found early in the nesting attempt. This also contributes more key information, principally first egg date, clutch size, number hatched and the nest outcome. It can be surprising to see that some common species are overlooked with regards to nest monitoring, this is particularly evident of open nesting species. For example, in 2023, only four Curlew, three Goldfinch and two Marsh Tit were recorded, and no nests were submitted for Manx Shearwater, Greylag Goose or Sparrowhawk in the whole of Wales. This does mean that every single nest can make a large contribution to the understanding of this species productivity. More information can be found at **bto.org/nrs**

Table 3. Numbers of nest records for Wales by species in 2023: 6086 nests of 91 species.

Species	No. of records		Change	Species	No. of records		Change
	2022	2023			2022	2023	
Mute Swan	8	28	20	Raven	10	13	3
Canada Goose	1	15	14	Goldcrest	2	1	-1
Mallard	3	3	0	Blue Tit	1510	1591	81
Fulmar	0	3	3	Great Tit	663	854	191
Cormorant	1	0	-1	Coal Tit	9	27	18
Shag	6	0	-6	Willow Tit	1	1	0
Little Egret	2	10	8	Marsh Tit	4	2	-2
Grey Heron	4	1	-3	Skylark	3	8	5
Little Grebe	1	1	0	Sand Martin	0	3	3
Great Crested Grebe	1	11	10	Swallow	151	154	3
Honey-buzzard	0	1	1	House Martin	13	5	-8
Red Kite	29	33	4	Cetti's Warbler	0	1	1
Hen Harrier	6	10	4	Long-tailed Tit	20	19	-1
Goshawk	9	6	-3	Wood Warbler	21	12	-9
Sparrowhawk	1	0	-1	Chiffchaff	3	8	5
Buzzard	3	7	4	Willow Warbler	14	8	-6
Osprey	8	9	1	Blackcap	8	9	1
Kestrel	19	28	9	Garden Warbler	4	3	-1
Merlin	2	1	-1	Whitethroat	0	1	1
Hobby	5	2	-3	Dartford Warbler	1	0	-1
Peregrine	14	9	-5	Sedge Warbler	1	0	-1
Moorhen	9	11	2	Reed Warbler	0	5	5
Coot	59	72	13	Nuthatch	58	98	40
Oystercatcher	8	8	0	Treecreeper	6	4	-2
Avocet	0	2	2	Wren	40	45	5
Little Ringed Plover	7	6	-1	Starling	25	16	-9
Ringed Plover	15	36	21	Dipper	221	210	-11
Lapwing	2	0	-2	Blackbird	139	154	15
Woodcock	1	0	-1	Song Thrush	67	84	17
Curlew	0	4	4	Mistle Thrush	6	5	-1
Common Sandpiper	1	0	-1	Spotted Flycatcher	10	18	8
Kittiwake	252	105	-147	Robin	41	43	2
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	3	-1	Pied Flycatcher	966	1127	161
Herring Gull	3	1	-2	Redstart	115	100	-15
Little Tern	304	322	18	Whinchat	0	2	2
Razorbill	17	0	-17	Stonechat	11	17	6
Black Guillemot	2	4	2	Wheatear	9	8	-1
Puffin	60	0	-60	Dunnock	17	13	-4
Feral Pigeon	0	1	1	House Sparrow	88	69	-19
Stock Dove	44	40	-4	Western Yellow Wagtail	1	0	-1
Woodpigeon	40	33	-7	Grey Wagtail	51	40	-11
Collared Dove	1	0	-1	Pied Wagtail	35	24	-11
Barn Owl	213	238	25	Tree Pipit	17	1	-16
Little Owl	1	3	2	Meadow Pipit	9	18	9
Tawny Owl	12	28	16	Rock Pipit	1	0	-1
Long-eared Owl	1	2	1	Chaffinch	9	4	-5
Nightjar	33	24	-9	Greenfinch	1	0	-1
Swift	3	2	-1	Goldfinch	5	3	-2
Kingfisher	1	0	-1	Linnet	7	13	6
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	3	2	Redpoll	2	0	-2
Chough	72	74	2	Common Crossbill	2	1	-1
Magpie	2	3	1	Bullfinch	3	3	0
Jackdaw	31	27	-4	Yellowhammer	1	0	-1
Rook	0	7	7	Reed Bunting	3	0	-3
Carrion Crow	8	4	-4	Total	5734	6086	352

Nest recording is relatively easy to do, providing the NRS Code of Conduct is followed. However, to find nests of some species takes practice and experience. We are grateful to all the nest recorders who have given up their time to study and monitor wild birds, particularly the following who submitted nest records in Wales. The following lists the individuals and groups who submitted nest records in 2023, in order of the number of records submitted with the highest first: Merseyside RG, Fledgemore Nest Recording Group, Mid Wales RG, Gwent Nest Box Project, John Hyde, John Lloyd, Paul Roughley, Teifi RG, John Lawton Roberts, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Mike Baron, Gower RG, Mike Haigh, Havard and Sloan, Kelvin Jones, Lyndon Jeffery, David Coker, David Anning, Steph Tyler, Gary Pitt, Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, Claire Backshall, Lee and Rachael Barber, NWWT Meirionnydd Woodlands, Julian Moulton, Spence and Brenchley, Facey and Vafidis, Richard Clarke, Ron Clevely, David Owen, Fred Slater, Llangorse RG, South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group, Cedwyn Davies, Brian Briggs, Gwyn Roberts, Jerry Lewis, Jeremy Richards, Parc Natur Penglais Support Group, East Dales RG, Andrew King, David Cooksey, Goldcliff RG, Peter Howlett, Sally Taylor, Leo Smith, David Woodhouse, Miriam Adam, Steve Roberts, Skokholm RG, Paddy Jenks, Adrienne Stratford, Bardsey Bird Observatory, Kate de Oliveira, Kenfig RG, Graham Brand, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Jim Clark, Seumus Eaves, Charlotte O'Shea, Pembrokeshire RG, Shropshire RG, Phil Belman, Nicholas Beswick, Jeremy Moore, South Essex RG, Tammy Stretton, Andrew Dixon, Steve Kent, Graham Austin, Ian Beggs, Jimmi Hill, Tim Mackrill, Sue Southam, Michael Thomas, Richard Ellis, Neil Finch, Andrew Shaw, Sam Goldsworthy, Peter Jenkins, Nigel Judson, Colin Law, John Lightfoot, Alice Marlow, Christopher Naylor, Shaun Nield, Mike Russell, Allan Rustell, Paul Slater, UEA RG, Rosalind Watkins and Rebecca Wilks.

Barn Owl (Michael Thackeray)

The Welsh List: A Checklist of the birds of Wales (8th edition)

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Summary
This paper provides an update to the seventh edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales (Thorpe and Stratford 2023). The list follows the BOURC British List (BOU 2022 and subsequent BOURC updates), but includes the International Ornithological Community (IOC) World Bird List version 14.2 (Gill et al. 2024), changes which BOU will adopt in due course. It also highlights changes in line with recent decisions by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC), the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). The full list is available on the Welsh Ornithological Society website.

Introduction
This is the eighth edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales, hereafter referred to as the Welsh List, and has been prepared as a statement of the status of those species that are known to have occurred in Wales and the surrounding seas (up to 12 nautical miles). It incorporates all BOURC/IOC taxonomic changes, up to 31 December 2024, and accepted species/subspecies records that occurred up to 31 December 2023.

The Welsh List
The Welsh List is the list of birds recorded in Wales, maintained by the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) through the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). Records have only been included after acceptance by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) and/or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and WBRC.

The Welsh List (eighth edition) can be viewed on the WOS website: **birdsin.wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee**. For each species, the list includes the English vernacular name, Welsh name and scientific name, and each is assigned to a Species Category and Species Status (see Thorpe and Stratford 2018 for full details).

The Welsh List is under regular review by the WBRC, with new species added, and potentially some removed following re-assessment. There remain a few issues to resolve over the subspecies identity of some species, but these do not impact on the assignment of species to categories.

Taxonomy, English and Welsh names
In maintaining the Welsh List, the WBRC relies on the IOC World Bird List for all decisions regarding taxonomic issues and on the BOURC for English names. Welsh names follow those used in The Birds of Wales (Pritchard et al. 2021).

The Welsh List changes since the seventh edition (2023)
Additions to the species/subspecies list were:

BAIKAL TEAL *Sibirionetta formosa* CORHWYADEN BAICAL
Male on Llangorse Lake, BRECON, on 9-18 Jan. 2023.

This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

Canada Warbler (Sam Viles)

BLACK-WINGED KITE *Elanus caeruleus* BARCUD YSGWYDD-DDU
2CY at Glan-Mule, MONTGOMERY, on 18 April 2023.

This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

ALDER FLYCATCHER *Empidonax alnorum* GWYBEDOG Y GWERN
1CY+ male on Skokholm, PEMBROKE, on 20-29 Sept., caught and ringed on 21st.

This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER *Setophaga magnolia* TELOR MAGNOLIA
1CY at St Govan's Head, PEMBROKE, on 20-26 Sept.

This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER *Setophaga castanea* TELOR BRONWINAU
1CY on Ramsey, PEMBROKE, on 21-26 Sept.

This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

CANADA WARBLER *Cardellina canadensis* TELOR CANADA
1CY male at Elegug Stacks, PEMBROKE, on 23-25 Sept.

This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

Taxonomic changes
The IOC (Gill *et al.* 2024) determined that Red Grouse in Britain should no longer be treated as a subspecies of Willow Grouse and will now be considered a species in its own right resulting in the scientific name changing from *Lagopus lagopus scotica* to *Lagopus scotica*.

The IOC (Gill *et al*. 2024) also decided that Common Redpoll, Lesser Redpoll and Arctic Redpoll should be treated as one species: Redpoll *Acanthis flammea,* with subspecies *Acanthis flammea flammea* (Redpoll), *Acanthis flammea cabaret* (Lesser Redpoll) and *Acanthis flammea exilipes* (Coue's Arctic Redpoll). This change resulted in two species being removed from Category A of the Welsh List.

There was an error (one additional species counted) in the total number of species in Category A in the seventh edition - this has now been corrected.

Other changes to scientific names and the order of species are incorporated into the Welsh List published online.

The number of species recorded in Wales (as of 31 December 2023), within each category, is now as follows:

Category	*Total*
A	445
B	7
C	8
Total	**460**

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County reports 2023

Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2023. Editor: Ceri Jones.
Not available at time of publication, but will be available at **glamorganbirds.org.uk**

Gower Birds - the birds of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot 2023.
Jeremy Douglas-Jones, 14 Alder Way, West Cross, Swansea SA3 5PD. £7.50 plus £2.50 p&p. Cheques to Gower Ornithological Society.

Carmarthenshire Bird Report 2023. Editor: Rob Hunt.
Gary Harper, Maesteg, Capel Seion, Drefach, Llanelli SA14 7BS. £8 (includes postage). Cheques to Carmarthenshire Bird Club.

Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2023. Editors: S.E. Berry and J. Green.
Online at **pembsbirds.blogspot.com/p/the-annual-pembrokeshire-bird-reports.html**

Ceredigion Bird Report 2023. Editor: Russell Jones.
Online at **birdsin.wales/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Ceredigion-Bird-Report-2023.pdf**

Breconshire Bird Report 2023. Editor: Andrew King.
Andrew King, Heddfan, Pennorth, Brecon LD3 7EX. £8 plus £2 for p&p, and from several retail outlets in the county. See **brecknockbirds.co.uk** for details.

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C**ambrian Bird Report 2023** (Anglesey, Caernarfonshire and Meirionnydd). Editor: Rhion Pritchard.
Rhion Pritchard, Pant Afonig, Hafod Lane, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4BU. £8 (includes postage). Cheques to Cambrian Ornithological Society.

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Online at **welshwildlife.org/nature-reserves/skokholm-island**

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Milvus

Milvus: The Journal of the Welsh Ornithological Society

Milvus: Cylchgrawn Cymdeithas Adaryddol Cymru

Milvus (previously Birds in Wales and Welsh Birds) is the official journal of the Welsh Ornithological Society. It publishes original research, reviews, short communications and commentaries on any aspect of ornithology in Wales. The Society is keen that the journal should accurately reflect and present ornithological activity in Wales and encourages submissions from professionals and amateurs, alike. It can be found, online, here: **birdsin.wales/milvus**

Three issues are published each year, as standard. Additional Special Issues may be published, when appropriate.

1. Devoted entirely to original articles. Accepted articles as Online First and are available via the website soon after acceptance. All articles also appear in the printed version that is published in June/July. One article per issue is made available as Open Access concurrent with the printing of the issue.

2. The annual Scarce and Rare Birds Report (currently edited by Jon Green) that is available online only.

3. Primarily devoted to the Welsh Bird Report and the annual report on bird ringing in Wales (currently edited by Julian Hughes).

About the Welsh Ornithological Society

WOS is the national body to unify birdwatchers and ornithologists across the whole of Wales. We actively support bird conservation in Wales as the only Welsh-based organisation to do so, by funding research and encouraging publication of papers and articles related to birds in Wales. WOS represents affiliated local and county bird clubs and groups with many country agencies and Welsh Government to help conserve birds in Wales.

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The **Welsh Ornithological Society** aims to:

Raise the profile of bird conservation in Wales through publications, social media and our website.

Engage with the Welsh Government to improve the protection of birds in Wales; for example by restricting licences to control fish-eating birds through a stricter regime based on reliable evidence.

Support research into birds in Wales through surveys, awards and small grants to members.

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